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NOT CALLED YET

AS BIDEN MAKES GAINS, TRUMP CLAIMS FRAUD



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times
PROTESTERS gather at the Philadelphia convention center to support continued vote counting. Joe Biden moved within 19,000 votes of overtaking President Trump in Pennsylvania and within 665 votes in Georgia.

Democrats' House hopes meet cold reality

Republicans flip seven seats with more still left to call — a far cry from projections.

BY SARAH D. WIRE

WASHINGTON — After confidently predicting Democrats would expand their House majority, Speaker Nancy Pelosi is having to explain why it looks as though they will actually lose seats. Democrats will keep the House majority, but the losses there come as Democrats appear likely to take the White House and improve their numbers in the Senate. Republicans flipped seven Democratic House seats so far, mostly in districts President Trump had carried in 2016 and then were won by Democrats in the 2018 midterm. Democrats

have gained two GOP seats. To control the House, 218 seats are needed. In the current Congress, Democrats have 232 to Republicans' 197. According to an estimate by election handicapper the Cook Political Report, Republicans could end up with a net gain of between five and 10 seats. More than three dozen races have yet to be called. In a private call with Democrats on Thursday, Pelosi (D-San Francisco) spoke about the "challenging election" and "tough races," according to a participant. "We held the House. Joe Biden is on a clear path to be the next president of the United States. This has been a life or death fight for the very fate of our democracy. We did not win every battle, but we did win the war," she said. That was a very different tone from the one expressed [See House, A8]

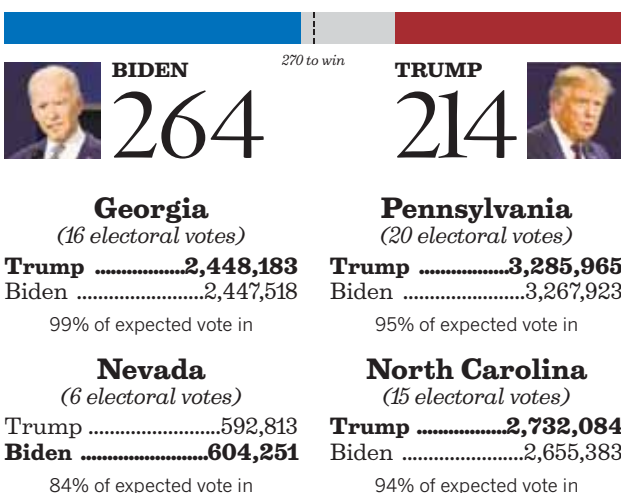


EVAN VUCCI Associated Press

TRUMP RENEWED allegations of voter fraud without offering any evidence to support his claim.

The tally continues

Joe Biden moved closer Thursday to winning the presidential election. Some key states that remain undecided:

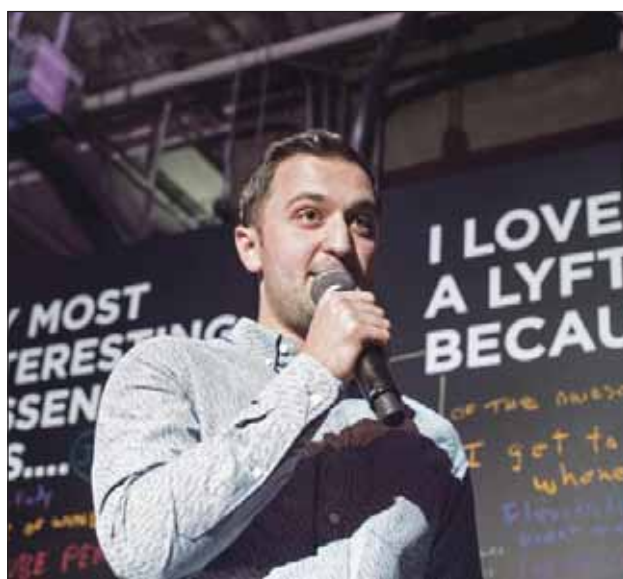


Lyft reaches out to unions

After his Prop. 22 victory, the company president says he'd like a deal with labor.

BY TARYN LUNA

SACRAMENTO — Lyft President John Zimmer is extending an olive branch to his labor foes. After the company he co-founded notched a decisive victory on Proposition 22 in Tuesday's election, he said he's ready and willing to return to the California Capitol and work out a deal that allows the unions that opposed his campaign to represent workers in the industry. [See Lyft, A11]



NOAH BERGER Associated Press

LYFT CO-FOUNDER John Zimmer says he's ready "to move forward and build a stronger safety net."

INSIDE

'Stop the count!' 'Count the votes!'

With the election in overtime, President Trump presses a mixed message. **NATION, A6**
Trump's support is underestimated
Polls in 2020 are slightly more accurate than normal. But accuracy varied a lot by state. **NATION, A6**
Protesters push their narrative
Trump's backers take up his wild, unproven and increasingly desperate allegations. **NATION, A9**
A referendum on nation's decency
A President Biden can "Make America Great Again," George Skelton writes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

BY MARK Z. BARABAK, JENNY JARVIE AND EVAN HALPER

ATLANTA — Joe Biden kept up a steady march toward the White House on Thursday, gaining significant ground in two battleground states with enough electoral votes to settle his prolonged contest with President Trump, who repeated his baseless assertions of fraud and Democratic cheating. Biden narrowed the gap in Georgia and Pennsylvania as millions of ballots continued to be tabulated nationwide despite a flurry of lawsuits filed by the Trump campaign aimed at keeping election officials from completing their count. Biden entered the day with 264 electoral votes, six shy of the 270 needed to win the presidency. As of early Friday, he trailed Trump by just 665 votes in Georgia, which has 16 electoral votes, and moved within 19,000 votes of overtaking Trump in Pennsylvania, which awards 20. In both states, the bulk of ballots still to be counted were cast in Democratic-leaning areas.

Making a brief appearance in his hometown of Wilmington, Del., Biden urged patience as the election pushed through its second day of overtime. "Each ballot must be counted," he said at the Queen theater, a historic performing arts center downtown. "That's what we're ... going through now. ... Democracy is sometimes messy. It sometimes requires a little patience as well." Biden expressed confidence, as he did Wednesday, that he and his running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, would prevail. He once again avoided any declaration of victory, closing with a call for calm and an endorsement of the election's integrity. "The process is working," Biden said. "The count is being completed and we'll know very soon."

A subdued Trump responded hours later at the White House, where he renewed accusations of voter fraud without offering any evidence to back up his claim. "If you count the legal votes, I easily win," he said. "If you count the illegal votes, they can try to steal the election from us." After keeping from sight

for the better part of two days, Trump appeared deflated as he read his remarks. He did not take questions from reporters. In a departure from the wall-to-wall coverage of his presidency, several of the major television networks cut away before Trump had even finished. He was more pugnacious on Twitter. "Stop the count!" Trump demanded, as teams of lawyers around the country set out to do so. Several of the suits were quickly dismissed. [See Votes, A8]

FACING DEFEAT, TRUMP SHREDS TRUTH

President doubles down on unfounded claims of fraud as vote counting continues.

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN AND ELI STOKOLS

WASHINGTON — Speaking publicly for the first time since election night, a somber-faced President Trump stepped behind a White House lectern Thursday evening to spread baseless accusations of voter fraud as his reelection appeared in increasing doubt. Even by the president's standards, he delivered an extraordinary stream of falsehoods and a dramatic display of desperation as his path to winning a second term seemed to shrink by the hour. But Trump was notably deflated as he read from prepared remarks in a subdued voice, suggesting the possibility of losing to former Vice President Joe Biden is sinking in. He departed from the briefing room without taking questions. In his comments, Trump insisted that election officials in multiple states were tampering, fabricating or manipulating ballots since [See Falsehoods, A9]

How wide a left turn for L.A. politics?

Progressive push may be the start of a larger alignment — or simply a one-off.

BY DAKOTA SMITH AND JULIA WICK

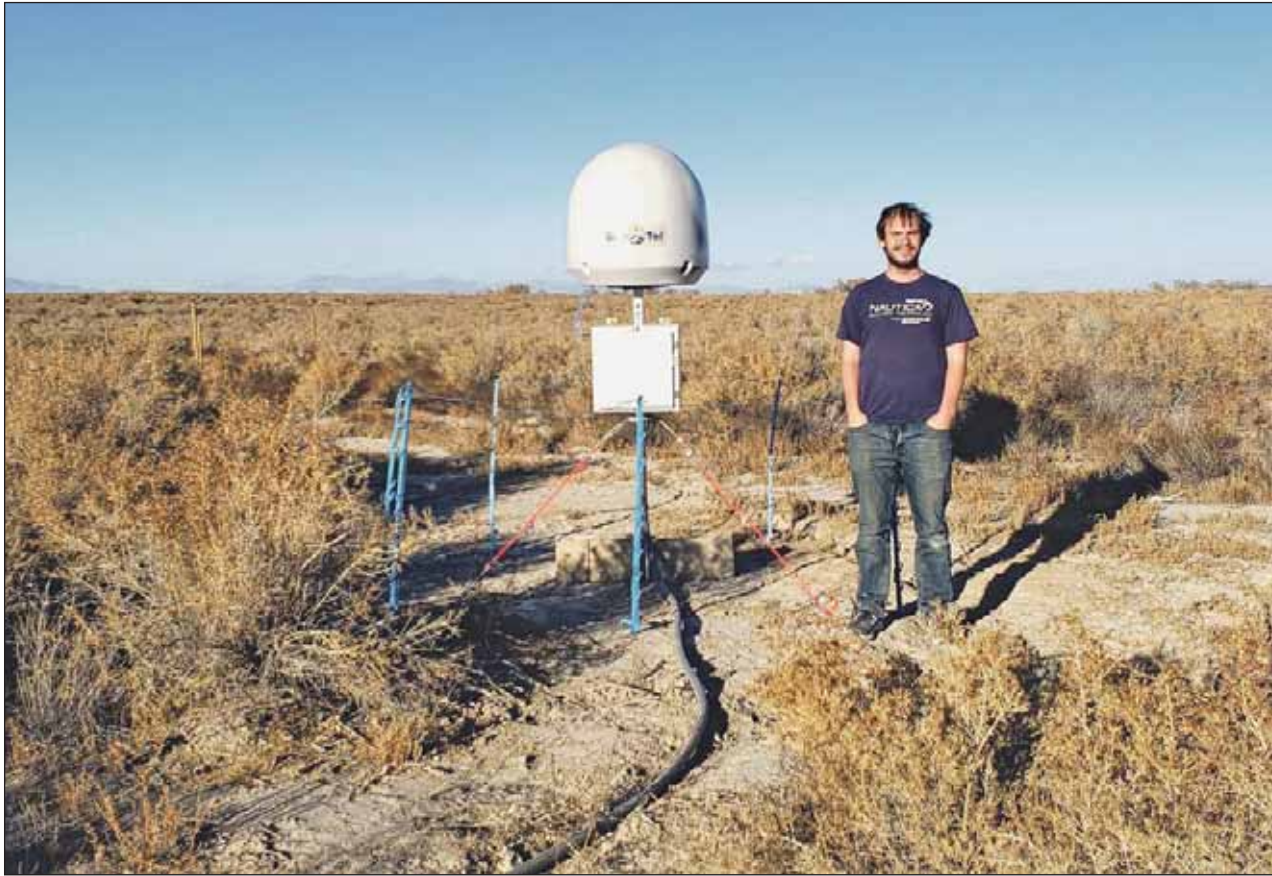
In a year dominated by massive street protests over racial injustice and wrenching losses from the pandemic, Los Angeles voters upended the political status quo on Tuesday by backing a slate of progressive candidates and measures. The question now is whether the leftward push is the beginning of a larger re-

alignment of local politics or a unique moment brought about by extraordinary times. Voters have the chance to dramatically reshape L.A. City Hall in 2022 when they cast ballots for mayor, eight City Council candidates, city attorney and city controller. While L.A. has long been dominated by Democrats, the more establishment players are now being challenged from the left in a battle also playing out among Democrats at the national [See Turn, A14]

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PERSPECTIVES



CALTECH ASTRONOMER Christopher Bochenek with a tracing device he developed near Delta, Utah.

No E.T. behind radio burst

Scientists find the source of a fleeting pulse. Cake pans helped.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A flash of luck helped astronomers solve a cosmic mystery: What causes powerful but fleeting radio bursts that zip and zigzag through the universe?

Scientists have known about these energetic pulses — called fast radio bursts — for about 13 years and have seen them coming from outside our galaxy, which makes it harder to trace them back to their source. Making it even harder is that they happen so fast, in a couple of milliseconds.

Then in April, a rare but considerably weaker burst coming from inside our own Milky Way galaxy was spotted by two distinct telescopes: one a Caltech graduate student's set of handmade antennas, which included actual cake pans; the other a \$20-million Canadian observatory.

They tracked that fast radio burst to a weird type of star called a magnetar that's 32,000 light-years from Earth, according to four studies published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

It was not only the first fast radio burst traced to a source, but the first emanating from within our galaxy. Astronomers say there could be other sources for these bursts, but they are now sure about one guilty party: magnetars.

Magnetars are incredibly dense neutron stars, with 1.5 times the mass of our sun squeezed into a space the size of Manhattan. They

have enormous magnetic fields that buzz and crackle with energy, and sometimes flares of X-rays and radio waves burst from them, according to McGill University astrophysicist Ziggy Pleunis, a coauthor of the Canadian study.

The magnetic field around these magnetars "is so strong any atoms nearby are torn apart and bizarre aspects of fundamental physics can be seen," said Caltech astronomer Casey Law, who wasn't part of the research.

There are maybe a dozen or so of these magnetars in our galaxy — apparently because they are so young and part of the star birth process — and the Milky Way is not as flush with star births as other galaxies, said Cornell University astronomer Shami Chatterjee, who wasn't part of either discovery team.

This burst, in less than a second, contained about the same amount of energy that our sun produces in a month, and still that's far weaker than the radio bursts detected coming from outside our galaxy, said Caltech radio astronomer Christopher Bochenek, the graduate student. He helped spot the burst with handmade antennas.

These radio bursts aren't dangerous to us, not even the more powerful ones from outside our galaxy, astronomers said.

The ones that come from outside our galaxy and travel millions or billions of light-years are "tens of thousands

to millions of times more powerful than anything we have detected in our galaxy," said coauthor Daniele Michilli, an astrophysicist at McGill and part of the Canadian team.

Scientists think these are so frequent that they may happen more than 1,000 times a day outside our galaxy. But finding them isn't easy.

"You had to be looking at the right place at the right millisecond," Chatterjee said. "Unless you were very, very lucky, you're not going to see one of these."

Even though this is a frequent occurrence outside the Milky Way, astronomers have no idea how often these bursts happen inside our galaxy.

"We still don't know how lucky we got," Bochenek said. "This could be a once-in-five-year thing or there could be a few events to happen each year."

Bochenek's antennas cost about \$15,000. Each is "the size of a large bucket. It's a piece of 6-inch metal pipe with two literal cake pans around it," he said. They are crude instruments designed to look at a giant chunk of the sky — about a quarter of it — and see only the brightest of radio flashes.

Bochenek figured he had maybe a 1-in-10 chance of spotting a fast radio burst in a few years. But after one year, he hit pay dirt.

The Canadian observatory in British Columbia is more focused and refined but is aimed at a much

smaller chunk of the sky, and it was able to pinpoint the source to the magnetar in the constellation Vulpecula.

Because the bursts are affected by all the material they pass through in space, astronomers might be able to use them to better understand and map the invisible-to-us material between galaxies and "weigh" the universe, said Jason Hessels, chief astronomer for the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy, who wasn't part of the research.

Astronomers have had as many as 50 theories for what causes these fast radio bursts — including aliens — and they emphasize that magnetars may not be the only answer, especially since there seem to be two types of fast radio bursts.

Some, like the one spotted in April, happen only once, while others repeat themselves often.

Michilli said his team has traced one outburst that happens every 16 days to a nearby galaxy and is getting close to pinpointing the source.

Some of these young magnetars are only a few decades old, "and that's what gives them enough energy to produce repeating fast radio bursts," Cornell's Chatterjee said.

Tracking even one outburst is a welcome surprise and an important finding, he said.

"No one really believed that we'd get so lucky," Chatterjee said. "To find one in our own galaxy, it just puts the cherry on top."

In healthcare, virus' toll hits nursing hardest

Medical workers of all stripes are at risk in the pandemic. But nurses face the highest risk of hospitalization.

By MELISSA HEALY

The sudden appearance of a deadly new pathogen is always bad for the men and women who care for the afflicted, and a new report shows that the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is no exception.

In a three-month period early in the COVID-19 pandemic, when personal protective equipment was often scarce and scientists' understanding of the virus was in its earliest stages, healthcare workers were hospitalized and died at rates that were atypically high for their ages and genders.

Researchers scoured a sample of 6,760 adults hospitalized for COVID-19 between March 1 and May 31 and found that 5.9% of those patients were healthcare workers. Just over two-thirds of them were in jobs where they would likely have direct contact with patients — especially nursing.

Despite being mostly female and typically younger than the general pool of hospitalized COVID-19 patients, the healthcare workers had rates of serious illness and death that were similar to those seen in older patients — especially men, who have proved to be more vulnerable to the disease.

More than a quarter of the COVID-19 patients who identified as healthcare workers became sick enough to be admitted to the intensive care unit. Roughly 16% required the assistance of mechanical ventilation to breathe. And 4.2% died during their hospitalization.

The median age of the hospitalized healthcare workers was 49, 13 years younger than the median age for the entire group of 6,760 COVID-19 patients. And although men who develop severe cases of COVID-19 generally outnumber women, 72% of the healthcare workers hospitalized for COVID-19 were female, reflecting women's larger numbers in nursing and related healthcare fields.

But other factors placed the hospitalized healthcare workers squarely in groups at high risk of developing severe disease.

Nine out of 10 had an

underlying health condition that increased their vulnerability, such as hypertension, asthma, heart disease or diabetes. Almost three-quarters were identified as obese, a powerful risk factor for a serious case of COVID-19. And more than half — 52% — were Black Americans.

In part because Black people are heavily represented among "essential workers," coronavirus infection rates have run three times higher in counties with predominantly Black populations than in counties that are predominantly white, and COVID-19 death rates are six times higher. The long-standing health inequities that contribute to higher rates of diabetes, asthma, hypertension and obesity among Black Americans are also driving their disproportionately high COVID-19 mortality rate, researchers say.

The new report was prepared for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by COVID-NET, a network of researchers tracking COVID-19's impact from more than 250 acute-care hospitals in 14 states. Their findings were published Monday in the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

At a time when healthcare workers are stretched to the limit, COVID-19 threatens to hobble a crucial workforce. The researchers said their findings underscored that adequate supplies of personal protective equipment, scarce throughout the pandemic, were crucial to keeping healthcare workers healthy and on the job.

Doctors have been highly visible in calls to shore up stocks of protective safety gear. But in the new study, they were far less likely than nurses to have been hospitalized for COVID-19.

Less than 3% of healthcare workers counted in the study were physicians. By contrast, nurses and certified nursing assistants amounted to close to 4 in 10 healthcare workers who landed in the hospital. (Phlebotomists, home healthcare aides, hospital housekeeping and maintenance staff, and other workers rounded out the list, though no other single group accounted for more than 6.6% of hospitalizations in the study.)

For nurses up and down the hierarchy, such findings are particularly important.

"This is not rocket science," said healthcare expert Barbara Resnick of the University of Maryland's School of Nursing, who was not involved in the new study. "Nurses are providing direct care to patients, and you have to be up close and personal for a lot of what they do. They spend the most time with patients, especially the nursing assistants. Bathing, dressing and giving medications — you can't do that from six feet away."

While doctors have relatively brief encounters with patients, nurses are more likely to spend more time in close contact with those sick with COVID, Resnick said.

Across the country, nurses have sat by the bedsides of sick patients in lieu of families, or held phones connecting patients with their loved ones who have been barred from visits during the pandemic. That means they're probably exposed to a higher dose of the coronavirus — a factor in causing more severe illness, Resnick added.

Roughly 17 million U.S. residents are employed in the nation's healthcare sector. The new study is based on a sample of hospitalized patients in 98 counties in 13 states. It's not clear whether the sample reflects the country as a whole. Nor is it clear whether healthcare workers will continue to be hospitalized and die at rates seen in the pandemic's early months.

But if the trends seen in the study continue, more than a million healthcare workers could be hospitalized with COVID-19, and more than 42,000 of them could die by the time the pandemic is over.

You're on a special diet? Step up to the plate

About one-sixth of U.S. adults said they were on some kind of food regimen in 2019, mostly for weight loss.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

If it seems as if more and more people are on diets these days, you might not be imagining it.

About one-sixth of American adults said they're on a special diet to lose weight or for other health reasons, according to a report published Tuesday by researchers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's more dieters than there were a decade ago, a government survey found.

The report found that 17% of Americans said they were on diets during the 2017-18 survey period, up from 14% a decade earlier. Over the same period, the obesity rate for adults in the U.S. rose from 34% to 42%.

The percentage of Americans who said they're on a diet is lower than expected, given the prevalence of diet-related diseases in the country, said Dana Hunes, a professor of public health and nutrition at UCLA.

The report noted that about half of American adults have diet-related



Los Angeles Times

MANY DIET trends often focus on banning particular foods, a dietitian said. But to make lasting changes, people should consider their overall patterns of eating.

- More women (19%) reported being on a diet than men (15%).
- The heavier people were, the more likely they were to report being on a special diet. The report found 23% of Americans who were obese said they were on diets, compared with 17% of people who were overweight and 8% of people who were normal weight or underweight.
- The odds of being on a special diet also increased

with people's years of education. Researchers reported that 14% of those who didn't finish high school said they were on a diet, as were 17% of those who finished high school and 19% of those who graduated from college.

- 18% of non-Latino white Americans, 16% of Latino Americans and 15% of Asian and Black Americans said they were on diets.
- A higher percentage of people 40 and older said they were on diets (19%) than

those ages 20 to 39 (13%).

- Compared with the 2007-08 survey, diets described as "weight loss or low calorie" grew in popularity, and remained the top category of special diet. Low-carbohydrate diets gained in popularity, while low-fat and low-cholesterol saw a decline.

The findings were based on the CDC's ongoing National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, in which participants were asked: "Are you currently on any kind of diet, either to lose weight or for some other health-related reason?"

Becky Ramsing, a registered dietitian and senior program officer at Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, said that the dietary changes people make in hopes of losing weight can vary greatly. And in some cases, she said people might not understand why the choices they're making aren't leading to weight loss.

"They won't eat bread, but then they'll go eat a lot of other things that are higher in calories," she said.

Many diet trends often focus on banning particular foods, Ramsing said. But to make lasting changes, she said people should consider their overall patterns of eating.

That will also help address another pitfall of diets, she said: They're hard to stick to over time.

France bolsters its border controls

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday that France is reinforcing its border controls after a series of attacks in the country in recent weeks.

Macron said the number of police officers and troops in charge of border controls will double to 4,800. They will focus on fighting illegal immigration and smuggling activities, he said during a visit to a frontier post in Le Perthus, at the border with Spain.

“We see very clearly that terrorist actions can actually be led by some people who use migratory flows to threaten our territory. So we must reinforce our controls for reasons of national security,” Macron said.

He notably referred to the Islamic extremist attack at Notre Dame Basilica in the city of Nice that killed three people last week. The chief suspect, Ibrahim Issaoui, is a 21-year-old Tunisian who transited through Italy in September en route to France. Issaoui is in a French hospital after being wounded by police as they arrested him.

In addition, Macron said he will push for changes to make controls at the European Union’s external borders more efficient. “Attacks in France, in Austria a few days ago in Vienna, show us that the terrorist risk is everywhere, that [terrorist] networks are global ... which forces Europe to intensify its response,” he said. France will present its proposals at a European summit in December.

The country raised its security alert to the maximum level after the Nice attack on Oct. 29.

It was the third attack since Charlie Hebdo republished the caricatures of the Muslim prophet Muhammad in September as the trial opened for those charged in the 2015 attacks at the paper’s offices and a kosher supermarket. The gunmen in that attack claimed allegiance to the Islamic State extremist group and Al Qaeda, which both recently called anew for strikes against France.

Herve Cazaux, border police director in Le Perthus region, said police have arrested 11,200 people seeking to cross illegally from Spain so far this year, compared with 5,500 last year.

This is in part explained by France’s spring pandemic lockdown, under which the borders were closed until June 20, he said.

Indicted Kosovo president resigns

Leader, charged with war crimes, says he wants to protect the integrity of his office.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRISTINA, Kosovo — Kosovo’s President Hashim Thaci, a guerrilla leader during Kosovo’s war for independence from Serbia in the late 1990s, resigned Thursday and will face charges for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity at a special court based in The Hague.

Thaci said he was taking the step “to protect the integrity of the presidency of Kosovo” and to preserve the historical truth of who was the perpetrator, and who the victim, in the conflict.

“We are a freedom-loving people and not vengeful,” the 52-year-old Thaci said at a news conference in Pristina, Kosovo’s capital. “That is why no claim may rewrite history. Kosovo has been the victim. Serbia has been the aggressor.”

Thaci was indicted in June along with nine other former rebel leaders by a special Kosovo court and an associated prosecutor’s office based in The Hague, which were set up five years ago to investigate and try former ethnic Albanian rebel leaders for alleged war crimes. The charges include murder, enforced disappearances, persecution and torture.

The 1998-99 war killed more than 10,000 people — most of them ethnic Albanians — and 1,641 people remain unaccounted for. It was brought to an end by a 78-day NATO air campaign against Serbian troops. In 2008, Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia, a move that Serbia refuses to recognize.

Among those charged with committing crimes during and after the war is Kadri Veseli, a former parliament speaker and an opposition party leader, who said he planned to travel to The Hague on Thursday and was resigning from “all public political activities.”

Both Thaci and Veseli have denied committing any crimes.

Thaci, a commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army during the war, said he was proud to have belonged to that force, calling it “the most sublime value of the Albanian nation.”

He called the indictment “the smallest price we have to pay for the freedom of our people.”

The government said in a statement that all defendants should be considered innocent unless the court decides otherwise.

“No one may judge our fight for freedom,” the government said, adding that



VISAR KRYEZIU Associated Press

HASHIM THACI, who fought for Kosovo’s independence from Serbia, will face charges for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity at a special court in The Hague. He has denied committing any crimes.

the KLA “fought for the liberation of our country ... and as such it has the support of the international community.”

Thaci held a ceremony at his office to hand over his presidential duties to parliament Speaker Vjosa Osmani. The government said the “constitution and the laws in power guarantee a clear transition of powers and exercising the responsibilities without any institutional vacuum.”

Osmani, 38, the second woman to serve as head of state out of postwar Kosovo’s six presidents, called for unity in a late afternoon speech that held Serbia responsible for the lives lost during the war.

“A sustainable peace in the region asks that the victims and the aggressors are not equalized,” she said. “We, Kosovo’s Albanians, have been the victim of the hegemony of a genocidal regime, while Serbia has been the state that committed these crimes.”

Thaci was elected president in February 2016. His

current term ends in April, when the national Assembly of Kosovo was expected to elect a new president.

Amnesty International’s Balkans researcher, Jelena Sesar, said the indictment of Thaci and the nine others would give hope to “thousands of victims of the Kosovo war who have waited for more than two decades to find out the truth about the horrific crimes committed against them and their loved ones.”

The European Union issued a statement welcoming Thaci’s cooperation with the Hague-based legal institutions, saying it “strongly supports the work of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and the Specialist Prosecutor’s Office.”

“Full cooperation with these institutions is essential as an important demonstration of Kosovo’s commitment to the rule of law, which in turn is a core element for Kosovo’s progress on its European path and for [the] EU’s engagement with the Western Balkans as a whole,” the statement read.

The prime minister of neighboring Albania expressed his country’s support for Thaci in “this battle for Kosovo and the inviolable justice of the liberating war.” Prime Minister Edi Rama described the indictments as resulting from an “absurd process.”

Exact details of the 10-count indictment against Thaci, Veseli and the others have not been released. Announcing the existence of the indictment this year, the Specialist Prosecutor’s Office alleged that the men were “criminally responsible for nearly 100 murders.”

At the time, the prosecutor’s office said it made the existence of the indictment public because of what it called repeated efforts by Thaci and Veseli “to obstruct and undermine” the work of the court, and said the two men were believed to have tried to overturn the Kosovo law that created the court.

The formation of the court and prosecutor’s office followed a 2011 report by the Council of Europe, a human

rights body, that included allegations that KLA fighters trafficked human organs taken from prisoners and killed Serbs and fellow ethnic Albanians.

Sesar, the Amnesty International expert, said that a “culture of impunity” had persisted in Kosovo as it has taken nearly 10 years for those suspected of criminal responsibility to be brought to court.

After the war, Thaci created the Democratic Party of Kosovo and served stints as foreign minister, deputy prime minister and prime minister before becoming president in 2016.

Kosovo-Serbia are still tense despite nine years of negotiations mediated by the European Union and supported by the United States.

The indictment was announced in June when Thaci was en route to a meeting at the White House with Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic. That meeting was held with Kosovo’s prime minister instead in September.

U.N. plans summit to push for global effort against pandemic

Session in December is a ‘belated first step’ toward coordinated response to COVID.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

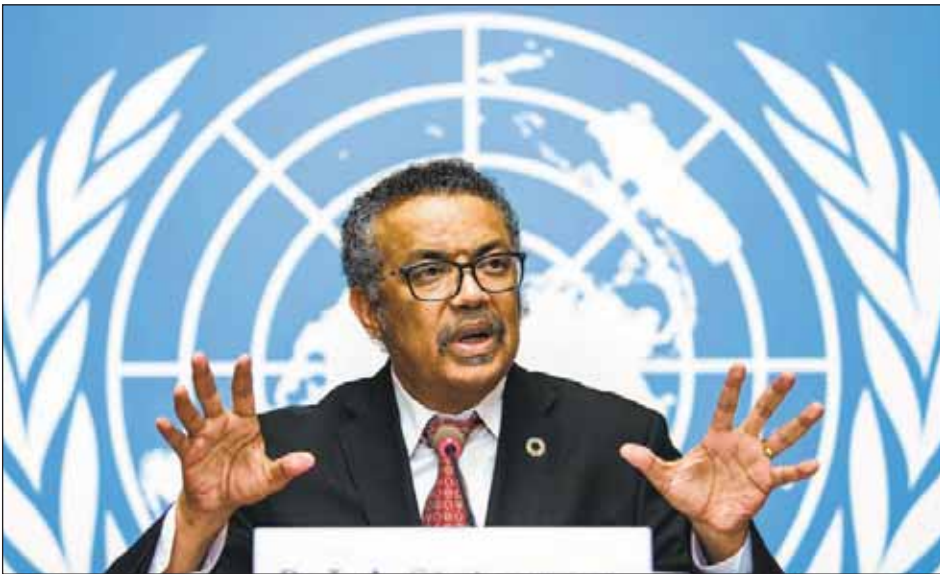
UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations voted Thursday to hold a summit on the COVID-19 pandemic in early December to press for action on the global spread of the coronavirus and its “unprecedented” effects on societies, economies, jobs, global trade and travel.

The General Assembly voted 150-0 — with the United States, Israel and Armenia abstaining — on a resolution authorizing the meeting on Dec. 3-4 and spelling out the necessary arrangements. It will include prerecorded speeches by world leaders and a discussion led by World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

General Assembly President Volkan Bozkir called the high-level special session “a historic moment and a test for multilateralism” that “will be defined by our collective action on one of the most critical issues of our time.”

“If anything, it is a belated first step,” he said. “This is a time for action — action in memory of the souls lost to COVID-19, action to protect the most vulnerable people who are depending upon us. And action to safeguard our futures. Let us not forget that none of us are safe until we are all safe.”

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in late October that it is “very frustrating” that leaders of the 20 major industrialized nations known as the Group of 20 didn’t come together in March and establish a coordinated response to suppress the coronavirus in all countries. Instead, he said,



MARTIAL TREZZINI Keystone

THE U.N. summit on Dec. 3-4 will include speeches by world leaders and a discussion led by World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

they went their own ways as infections moved “everywhere.”

The U.N. chief recalled that at the March meeting, he urged adoption of a “wartime” plan including a stimulus package “in the trillions of dollars” for businesses, workers and households in developing countries trying to tackle the pandemic, as well as “a task force to have a combined effort to defeat the virus.”

The G-20 is holding a virtual summit later this month, and Guterres said the United Nations will be “strongly advocating” for better coordination and seeking a “guarantee” that any coronavirus vaccine is treated as “a global public good” and be made “available and affordable for everyone, everywhere.”

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the secretary-general “very much” hopes the U.N. summit soon after that will be an opportunity “for states to move forward together on facing the virus, both in the immediate term and the longer term.”

The General Assembly resolution, whose negotiations were led by Azerbaijan

and Canada, was put to a vote after three proposed amendments were defeated.

One by the United States would have eliminated a reference to the World Health Organization, from which the U.S. has withdrawn at President Trump’s order over the U.N. agency’s handling of the pandemic and his allegations that the WHO has been improperly influenced by China.

An amendment proposed by Israel would have eliminated a reference to U.N. “observer states,” which include Palestinian territories.

The proposed amendment by Armenia would have eliminated a reference to the 120-member Non-aligned Movement, which initiated the call for a special session.

The resolution adopted Thursday recognizes the need for a global response to the pandemic “that is people-centered, gender-responsive, with full respect for human rights, multidimensional, coordinated, inclusive and innovative, based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation.”

It notes “the fundamental role of the United Nations system in the comprehensive global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the crucial role played by the World Health Organization.”

The meeting is to include prerecorded speeches by leaders of the 193 U.N. member nations, a Palestinian observer and a representative of the Holy See, and, “time permitting,” a limited number of nongovernmental organizations.

Diplomats said a proposal to have the WHO’s Tedros speak at the opening was dropped during negotiations, but he will make a presentation and lead a dialogue during the summit’s second day. There will not be a final joint statement.

“The point of this special session is first of all to bring the membership together and to move forward collectively in fighting the pandemic,” General Assembly spokesman Brenden Varma said after the vote.

“It’s also an opportunity to come and identify the gaps that exist right now in our response to the pandemic.”

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We regret that this incident occurred and take our data protection responsibilities very seriously. We have taken measures to enhance our security controls and prevent this type of incident from recurring, including implementing additional access restrictions on our patient scheduling platform. We also notified federal law enforcement of this matter.

On October 27, 2020, Luxottica will begin mailing notice of the incident to impacted patients for whom the eye care practices below had current mailing addresses. Individuals seeking additional information can call toll free to (877) 540-1431 (within the U.S. and Canada) or visit Luxottica.kroll.com. Please know that we regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause.

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Eastwest Optometry 2148 Montclair Plaza Lane, Montclair	Lucent Optometry Montclair Inc 9335 Monte Vista Ave, Montclair	Ryan Hosn OD Family Optometry Inc 22500 Town Circle, Ste 2108, Moreno Valley	Tracy, Lien Thi 27818 Clinton Keith Rd, Murrieta
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ELECTION 2020

Death of poll worker probed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

O'FALLON, Mo. — A suburban St. Louis election official who worked at a polling place on election day despite a positive test for the coronavirus has died, raising concerns for the nearly 2,000 people who voted there.

A spokeswoman for St. Charles County, Mo., said Thursday that the person, whose cause of death is not yet known, was an election judge supervisor Tuesday at the Blanchette Park Memorial Hall polling site in St. Charles, about 25 miles northwest of St. Louis.

The county's health department and election authority recently learned that the poll worker tested positive Oct. 30 for the coronavirus and had been advised to quarantine 14 days.

"The election judge nevertheless failed to follow the advice" and worked throughout the day on Tuesday, spokeswoman Mary Enger said in a news release. "Authorities have informed the County that this individual has died, although a cause of death has not been given at this time."

No details about the worker, including his or her age or gender, were released.

Contact tracing has begun, and county health officials have contacted the other nine election workers at the site, who were advised to be tested, Enger said.

The infected poll worker's duties did not "typically" include handling iPads or having close contact with the 1,858 voters, such as tak-

'You may act surprised that you don't have a face mask on properly and then apologize as you put the mask on.'

— September email to poll workers in St. Charles County, Mo.

ing voter identification, Enger said.

County officials urged anyone who was at the precinct on election day to watch closely for symptoms and call a hotline if they have questions.

St. Charles County Director of Elections Kurt Bahr said election workers were required to wear masks or face shields. In addition, Plexiglas barriers separated workers from voters.

It's unclear when the county required workers to wear masks. In September, the election authority drew criticism for an email urging poll workers who had signed up for the November election to "act surprised" if voters asked why they weren't wearing masks.

"You may act surprised that you don't have a face mask on properly and then apologize as you put the mask on," the email stated. "Wear your mask correctly until the voter leaves the polling place. Please do this every time a voter says something to you."

Bahr said in an interview in September that the email was poorly worded but was meant to avoid a debate that would slow down the voting process. Phone calls to his office on Thursday went unanswered.

Missouri is among several Midwestern states seeing a surge in coronavirus cases. The state reported 3,553 new cases and 18 deaths on Thursday.

All told, Missouri has reported 196,576 confirmed cases and 3,106 deaths. The positivity rate of 15.2% is triple the benchmark recommended by the World Health Organization.

The state also set a new record for hospitalizations, with a seven-day average of 1,721 — 49 more than the record set a day earlier.

Pollsters miss, but not by too much

Support for Trump was underestimated, but polls' accuracy varied a lot by state.

By DAVID LAUTER

WASHINGTON — As returns from quick-counting states like Florida and Texas flowed in Tuesday night, pollsters quickly became targets in America's easily triggered political culture.

With Democratic challenger Joe Biden running well behind poll-created expectations in those states, accusations of "collapse" and "disaster" peppered the nation's pollsters. President Trump added to the fusillade Thursday by accusing them of deliberately releasing false results to discourage his supporters from voting.

But as states have counted more results, the picture has shifted: Polls did underestimate Trump's vote, but by a relatively small amount — less, for example, than they underestimated President Obama's strength in 2012, when he ran for reelection.

Biden leads the popular vote, which is what polls measure, by about 2.6 percentage points and seems on track to win by around 5 points once all ballots have been tabulated. The national polling averages on election eve showed him winning by 7 to 8 points. A difference of 3 to 4 points would be smaller than the average error over the last couple of decades.

Polling errors were distributed unevenly across the country, however. In some states — Colorado, Minnesota and Virginia, for example — polls hit close to the mark. Those three have among the highest shares of college graduates in their populations, pointing to a particular problem pollsters have faced in the Trump years: difficulty counting the blue-collar white voters who have been the president's strongest supporters.

In other states with large populations of such Trump voters, errors were bigger.

"Polls that were way off either did not interview enough Trump voters or they did interview enough Trump supporters but [the supporters] lied about their vote," said Courtney Kennedy, director of survey re-



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

SUPPORTERS of President Trump protest the vote count in Philadelphia. When all ballots are tallied, Joe Biden is on track to win the popular vote by about 5 points. Nationwide polling averages had him up by 7 or 8.

search at the nonpartisan Pew Research Center.

Research indicates that failing to pollsters is rare, but failing to reach enough Trump voters and get them to answer questions appears to be a continuing problem, Kennedy said.

The places where larger polling errors occurred — Florida, Texas, parts of the Midwest — are also where some of the most competitive congressional races took place. As a result, the polling problems, which affected campaign polls as well as public surveys, proved troublesome especially for House Democrats.

Overly rosy polls for Democrats — and overly pessimistic ones on the Republican side — raised expectations that Democrats would carry districts where they ended up going down to defeat. That generated anger that spilled into public view Thursday during a tense conference call of Democratic lawmakers.

Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Ill.), the head of the House Democrats' campaign operation, faced tough comments from her peers and blamed poor polling for Democratic losses. "Voters looked more like 2016 than projected," she said.

That much appears true. Unlike the 2018 midterm, in

which Democrats benefited from a wave of anti-Trump voting, this year a pro-Trump surge matched the opposition, as mobilization by both sides drove turnout to an unprecedented high of roughly 160 million.

That high level of voting created a challenge for pollsters, said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute, a highly regarded nonpartisan polling operation.

"Polling is an imprecise science in part because only two-thirds of eligible voters show up" even in high-turnout races, Murray said. "We don't know who we're polling" — whether they're truly likely voters or not.

In this presidential cycle, Monmouth reported a range of results in each state it polled based on high- and low-turnout scenarios. Even though the turnout was extremely high, the low-turnout scenarios were closer to accurate, Murray said.

Although it's too early to know for sure, the reason seems to be that the electorate ended up not only bigger than expected but also more Republican than polls' turnout models had assumed, Murray said.

Democrats often think that if more people vote, it automatically helps their candidates, he said, but

"that's not true" in all places. "In the Midwest, it's the opposite," because many of the voters who show up only sporadically are white residents of rural areas.

Another problem may involve Trump's polarizing nature. Pollsters work to avoid language on surveys that might cause people who hold unpopular beliefs — or who think their beliefs are unpopular — to balk at a question. Avoiding that is hard when the controversial issue is the president himself, Murray said.

People who feel strongly about Trump believe that their view of him "says something about who they are," and "that could play a role" in their willingness to answer questions, he said.

Indeed, an experimental question on the USC Dornsife poll this year points in that direction.

The poll's main question, which asked people the probability that they would support Trump or Biden, projected Biden would win the popular vote by nearly 11 points — a significant miss.

The experimental question asked people to estimate how others in their social circle would vote. It ended up showing Biden ahead in the popular vote by 4.1 points, very close to the likely final tally.

"The idea behind the question is that people have a relatively good sense ... of the political views of their friends and family," said Wändi Bruine de Bruin, a professor of public policy at USC who has been studying the social-circle question.

After 2016, when surveys underestimated Trump's vote, pollsters took steps to try to more accurately measure the voters they had missed. In the 2018 midterm, polls were extremely accurate.

That reassured pollsters, but now that the problem has recurred, "it's not clear if the fixes actually fixed anything," said Vanderbilt University political scientist John Sides.

But, Sides added, much of the commentary about polling exaggerates its problems. Research has found no evidence that polling errors have gotten worse over the last three decades; some evidence suggests polls have gotten more accurate.

The public may need to "better calibrate" expectations about what polling can deliver, Sides said.

"If you start your post-mortem with the expectation that a 3-point error is normal, that's helpful," he said. "You should never start with the assumption of zero."

Trump steps on his own message on votes

By NOAH BIERMAN AND CHRIS MEGERIAN

WASHINGTON — President Trump's fruitless calls Thursday to "stop the count" underscored a major problem for him: He needs some states to keep counting ballots if he has any shot of winning reelection.

Trump's growing litigation in states faces a similar problem. It may work as a messaging strategy to show he is still fighting. But it is unlikely to provide him a legal remedy if more states tip toward former Vice President Joe Biden.

Trump has long believed that splashy threats about litigation — even if they were based on thin claims or if he failed to follow up on them in court — would give him leverage, make headlines or apply pressure.

"I've claimed certain states and he's claiming states and we can both claim the states, but ultimately I have a feeling judges are going to have to rule," Trump said Thursday night in a statement rife with false and unsubstantiated claims of fraud. "But there's been a lot of shenanigans and we can't stand for that in our country."

But as his path to reelection narrows, he has won only limited concessions in court and has not provided evidence of wrongdoing that could strengthen a legal case to move the results in his favor. Even as he insisted Thursday night that he is



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

A SUPPORTER of President Trump stands outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, where election ballots are being tabulated.

the rightful winner, he looked and sounded subdued, and did not take questions from reporters.

His campaign secured a court order on Thursday allowing the president's team to more closely observe the processing of ballots in Pennsylvania. But the campaign followed up with another motion in federal court, arguing that local officials had failed to comply with the earlier order.

Several hundred thousand ballots remain uncounted there, and Trump's lead has been steadily shrinking.

Trump's campaign said it would file another lawsuit alleging there was illegal voting in Nevada, where the race remains too close to

call, but did not provide any evidence to back up the claim.

Trump was trailing Biden in Arizona and Nevada when he sent out a tweet early Thursday demanding that counting stop. He needs to catch up in at least one of them to keep Biden from reaching the necessary 270 electoral votes.

In addition, Trump would need to hold on to his shrinking leads in Pennsylvania and Georgia, where Biden is well within striking distance. Trump appeared headed to victory in North Carolina, another battleground state where a winner has not been projected.

Trump issued a follow-up all-caps tweet falsely claim-

ing that any vote that arrived after election day "will not be counted." Twitter flagged it as misinformation, a frequent occurrence for a president who has leaned heavily on baseless claims of voter fraud.

He amended that message during his Thursday night statement as he tried to square his contradictory message with another unfounded claim that counting ballots amounted to stealing the election.

As the president remained largely holed up in the White House, his campaign hosted a flurry of news conferences in contested states — three in Philadelphia, one Las Vegas, one in Phoenix and another in Atlanta — using such surrogates as Richard Grenell, Trump's combative former national intelligence director.

Trump's two adult sons and other close allies were livid that so few elected Republicans had echoed Trump's unsupported charges that the election was being stolen.

"The total lack of action from virtually all of the '2024 GOP hopefuls' is pretty amazing," Donald Trump Jr. tweeted. "They have a perfect platform to show that they're willing & able to fight but they will cower to the media mob instead."

He later tweeted that his father should "go to total war over this election."

The drawn-out ballot counts present a tough math equation and a messy

public relations problem for the president, who has bled credibility during his four years in office with contradictory and often false statements.

During the campaign, Trump insisted the outcome needed to be settled on election day, Nov. 3, even though most elections require days to count ballots. The challenge grew this year because a record number of Americans, mindful of the COVID-19 pandemic, cast mail-in ballots instead of voting in person.

But as Trump fell behind Biden on election night, and Fox News projected Biden as the winner in Arizona, his advisors unsuccessfully demanded that the call be rescinded and that media organizations should wait until all votes were counted.

Trump lacks the consistent message to make the public relations case.

His supporters banged on windows and chanted, "Stop the count!" outside an election office in Detroit. Hours later, another group of Trump supporters gathered outside an election office in Phoenix, chanting, "Count the vote!" Trump was similarly out of sync with his own advisors.

Even as he demanded that counting stop, former White House advisor Kellyanne Conway urged patience.

"We can't wait three hours, three days, three weeks, to get a result?" she said on Fox News. "What is the rush all of a sudden?"

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Chi Change Optometry, Inc 3333 Bristol St, Costa Mesa	Robert S Glass, OD 1696 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa	Sara Heikali, OD, Inc 6200 Slauson Ave, Culver City	Uzma Husain Optometry Corporation 10820 Jefferson Blvd, Culver City
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Lam, Josh 1200 N Sepulveda Blvd, Manhattan Beach	Lauren H Felipe, OD Inc 3400 Sepulveda Blvd, Manhattan Beach	Huffmire, David 30080 Haun Rd, SPC #P2, Menifee	Ngo, Tracy 30340 Haun Rd, Menifee
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	Dr Robert S Glass 16498 Beach Blvd, Westminster	Westminster Optometry, Incorporated 300 Westminster Mall, Westminster	

Biden urges calm as he makes gains

[Votes, from A1]

Trump also seemed to be losing some of his unflinching Republican support. Several lawmakers castigated Trump for his comments challenging the legitimacy of the vote. The New York Post, which has often served as mouthpiece for the president, rejected his assertions in a tweet that read, “Downcast Trump makes baseless election fraud claims in White House address.”

After the tumult of the presidential campaign, Thursday offered a relative lull. There was sound and fury, but nothing fundamentally changing the shape of the contest.

Protesters supporting both candidates gathered outside locations where vote counting was underway. There were demonstrations and counter-demonstrations across the country.

But the wreckage and ruin that many feared did not materialize.

Instead, there was the quiet but deliberate work of whittling down mountains of mail-in ballots.

Biden urged his supporters to vote before election day, to avoid the risk of crowding into polling places amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Trump discouraged his backers from mailing their votes, urging them to show up on Tuesday. In many states, those ballots were counted first, which is why the president jumped out to an early lead in contests that have since moved Biden's way.

At one point Trump was ahead by about 300,000 votes in Georgia and more than 700,000 votes in Pennsylvania. But those leads steadily dwindled as mail ballots from the states' heavily Democratic metropolitan areas were tabulated.

There was one bright spot Thursday for Trump: Arizona, where Biden's lead fell to fewer than 50,000 votes after an updated count was announced.

The Associated Press and other news organizations called the state for the former vice president based on an analysis of returns that were tabulated and where the outstanding votes would come from.

But it was a thin reed of hope for the president.

Even if he pulled ahead to win Arizona's 11 electoral votes, he would still need to prevail in some combination of Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina and Pennsylvania to reach 270 electoral votes. Biden is ahead in Nevada, and Trump leads in North Carolina.

That did not stop the president from waging an effort to disenfranchise millions of Americans. Lawyers for Trump filed lawsuits in several states, alleging unspecified voting irregularities and seeking to bring the vote counting to a halt.



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

A SUPPORTER of President Trump dons a Joe Biden mask to mock the Democrat outside Philadelphia's convention center, where votes are being counted. “Each ballot must be counted,” Biden said in his hometown of Wilmington, Del. “Democracy is sometimes messy.”



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

TRUMP SUPPORTERS protest outside a Maricopa County vote-counting center in Phoenix. Biden's lead in Arizona fell under 50,000 votes after an updated count was announced. The state holds 11 electoral votes.

ularities and seeking to bring the vote counting to a halt.

At a news conference Thursday morning outside the Clark County Election Department in North Las Vegas, representatives of the

president — including the former acting director of national intelligence, Richard Grenell — claimed without proof that Nevada's election was riddled with fraud.

County Registrar Joe Gloria disputed the as-

sertion, saying he personally spoke with a plaintiff in Trump's suit who alleged someone improperly cast her ballot. “We reviewed the ballot, and in our opinion it's her signature,” Gloria said. Other lawsuits were sum-

marily dismissed in Michigan and Georgia.

With some exceptions — House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield, Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina among them —

many top Republicans stayed silent or condemned Trump's false claims.

That left it mostly to the president's die-hard supporters and commentators on sympathetic news outlets to make his case.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who briefly considered challenging Trump in the Republican primaries, was blunt in his criticism.

“There is no defense for the President's comments tonight undermining our Democratic process,” he tweeted. “America is counting the votes, and we must respect the results as we always have before. No election or person is more important than our Democracy.”

Even Sean Spicer, Trump's first White House press secretary, said in a SiriusXM interview that he had seen no evidence of mass fraud. “You can't just throw a term out there without being specific,” he said.

Barabak reported from San Francisco, Jarvie from Atlanta and Halper from Washington. Times staff writers Michael Finnegan in Philadelphia, Chris Megerian in Washington, Brittny Mejia in Las Vegas and Melanie Mason in Wilmington contributed to this report.

After high hopes, House Democrats lose seats

[House, from A1]

in the days leading to the election, when Pelosi and Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairwoman Cheri Bustos (D-Ill.) boasted to reporters that Democrats would increase their majority.

Pundits spoke of Democrats winning five to 15 new seats. Before election day, Bustos told reporters Democrats were confident as they reached deep into Trump country. As it turned out, Bustos ended up only narrowly winning a nail-biter of a race for her own seat.

Pelosi on Thursday told her colleagues that Trump's presence on the ballot this year made it more difficult to retain some of the seats they flipped two years ago.

“In 2018, we won 40 seats. We went deep into Trump districts when Trump was not on the ballot. But clearly with Trump on the ballot, we knew it would be a steeper climb,” Pelosi said on the call. “So far, of the 30 districts that Democrats currently hold that Trump won in 2016, we have won or are ahead in 70% of those races.”

Among those losing Tuesday was Democratic Rep. Xochitl Torres Small, a water rights lawyer in a rural New Mexico district. She was defeated in a rematch against Yvette Herrell, a Republican former state legis-



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE Associated Press

HOUSE SPEAKER Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) had to explain why Democrats failed to expand their majority as she had predicted.

lator who tied herself closely to Trump. Oklahoma Democrat Kendra Horn lost her suburban Oklahoma City district to Stephanie Bice, a Republican state senator, who criticized Horn for not standing up to Pelosi in Washington.

The losses threaten to reignite familiar intraparty fighting between progres-

sives and moderates, a battle Democrats would like to avoid with a narrower majority.

On the Thursday call, moderate members who lost, or nearly did, blamed their progressive colleagues, saying the talk of “defunding the police” or “banning fracking” was used in attack ads during the election.

Others in close races have said the failure to reach a compromise with Republicans to pass a coronavirus stimulus relief bill hurt them.

For two years, Pelosi has navigated the competing needs and demands of progressives and moderates. Oftentimes her top priority has appeared to be protect-

ing the moderates, whose 2018 wins gave Democrats the majority again.

Despite prodding from progressives, she refused to bring up legislation to endorse “Medicare for all,” or massive climate change protections — mostly to protect moderates from having to defend such a vote. She resisted calls to impeach Trump that started nearly the day he was inaugurated until moderates with national security experience said they were on board.

In the end, however, those efforts weren't enough to help all of the vulnerable Democrats.

Bustos blamed bad polling for the disappointing losses, according to people on the call. She promised an election postmortem would be completed. Some have quietly indicated it would be best if she doesn't seek another term leading the party's campaign arm.

“I'm furious. Something went wrong here across the entire political world,” Bustos said, according to people on the call. “They all pointed to one political environment — but voters who turned out look a lot like 2016.”

Others pointed to Democratic spending to make inroads into places such as Arkansas, hoping the president's unpopularity would push their candidates in red

states across the finish line. Or the heavy focus on Texas, where they ended up not winning a single new House seat, though one is still uncalled.

Rep. Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) said it shouldn't have been a surprise that Democrats faced an uphill battle in keeping the 30 seats they won from Republicans in 2018.

“I think we allowed our exuberance to run a bit ahead of a rational and cold-blooded view of the political reality,” Huffman said. “Obviously with the benefit of hindsight, you have to question if we spread our ambitions too thin instead of having a more focused defense of our front-liners.”

Not all the incumbents who lost were moderates in districts that Trump won in 2018. Two Democratic congresswomen from the Miami area of southern Florida also lost their races to Republican challengers.

Rep. Donna Shalala, a Clinton administration veteran, was defeated by television broadcaster Maria Elvira Salazar. Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell lost to well-known Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Giménez.

Times staff writers Jennifer Haberkorn and Tracy Wilkinson contributed to this report.

States’ rules for recounts

BY MATT PEARCE

With Democrat Joe Biden on the verge of victory and gaining or leading in vote counts in key states, the Trump campaign has made unsubstantiated claims of fraud and threatened a variety of legal counterattacks to avoid defeat.

One of the most important tools that could tilt the outcome of a race is a recount of the votes. But rules for triggering recounts vary by state. Here’s a look at the rules, according to research by the National Assn. of Secretaries of State.

Arizona: The secretary of state “canvasses” — accounts for the ballots cast, reconciles errors and confirms valid votes — and certifies the results on the fourth Monday after the election and issues the certificate of election. Recounts are triggered if a canvass finds a race is within a 0.1% margin of victory.

Georgia: The secretary of state canvasses and certifies election results no later than 14 days after the election, with the governor certifying electors no later than 15 days after the election. A candidate can request a recount if trailing the winner by less than 1%. The request must be made within two business days of certification.

Nevada: The secretary of state and the state Supreme Court canvass returns on the fourth Tuesday in November, with the governor issuing a certificate of election. A losing candidate can file a recount request within three days of the canvass.

Pennsylvania: County officials canvass and send results to the secretary of state by the Tuesday after the election, after which the secretary canvasses and certifies the results. The governor issues a certificate of election to the winner. A recount is triggered if the margin of victory is within 0.5%, and must take place by the third Wednesday after the election and finish by the following Tuesday.

Wisconsin: County officials canvass and send results to the state election commission within 14 days after the election. The commission canvasses and certifies results on Dec. 1. A candidate can request a recount if the margin of victory is within 1%; it must be sent and received by the first business day after all the county results have been submitted.

Michigan: County officials canvass and transmit results to the secretary of state within 14 days of the election. A bipartisan, governor-appointed board of state canvassers canvasses those results within 40 days of the election. Candidates may request a recount in a precinct if they believe there was fraud or error in that precinct that prevented them from winning.



CHIP SOMODEVILLA Getty Images

PRESIDENT TRUMP walks into the White House briefing room, where he would deliver a stream of election-related falsehoods extraordinary even for a president known for untrue statements. His remarks to reporters prompted some television networks to cut away.

Trump strays far from the truth

[**Falsehoods**, from A1] polls closed Tuesday night, although he offered no credible evidence to his charge of widespread malfeasance.

He refused to acknowledge that many states often take days to tally tens of millions of legal ballots, including those sent by mail, and suggested they were somehow invalid.

“If you count the legal votes, I easily win,” Trump said, pointing to the leads he held Tuesday while millions of votes were still uncounted. “If you count the illegal votes, they can try to steal the election from us.”

No winner has been declared, and Trump’s campaign has vowed to fight in court in an effort to prevent Biden from securing victory. It has filed or threatened litigation in at least four states, but that has yet to stop the ballot counting, as he has demanded.

Some of the lawsuits had limited success, such as increasing his team’s ability to watch ballot processing in Pennsylvania. But it’s unlikely that any will tip the results of the race.

Trump blamed pollsters for conducting what he called “suppression polls” to deliberately reduce enthusiasm among his supporters and make it harder for him to win.

“Media polling was election interference in the truest sense of that word,”

he said.

“Fake polls were designed to keep our voters at home, create the illusion of momentum for Mr. Biden” — a rare example of Trump attaching an honorific to his opponent’s name rather than a derogatory nickname — “and diminish Republicans’ ability to raise funds.”

And he repeatedly tried to undermine public faith in the electoral process by describing the counting of votes as deceitful.

Trump warned of “disturbing irregularities” and workers “doing a lot of bad things,” such as “duplicating ballots,” although no such incidents are known to have occurred.

He also seemingly played the race card.

“Detroit and Philadelphia, known as two of the most corrupt political places anywhere in our country — easily — cannot be responsible for the outcome of a presidential race,” Trump said, citing two cities known for their large Black populations.

The president accused state and local officials responsible for conducting elections as being “part of a corrupt Democratic machine.” He even falsely claimed the election apparatus in Georgia is “run by Democrats” although the governor and secretary of state are Republicans.

“They’re trying to steal

an election,” he insisted. “They’re trying to rig an election.”

Mail ballots were a particular target for Trump.

He spent months during the campaign claiming without evidence that they were fraudulent, while Democrats urged their supporters to submit ballots by mail to avoid crowded polling places during the pandemic.

Now Trump is furious that millions of mail-in ballots are being counted in the battleground states he needs to beat Biden, particularly in Georgia and Pennsylvania.

“We were winning in all the key locations by a lot, actually, and then our numbers started miraculously getting whittled away in secret,” Trump said of the counting of ballots Wednesday and Thursday.

Republican and Democratic poll watchers play a role in every state’s vote tabulation, and none of it is done in secret. Some states provide live video feeds so the public can watch.

Trump’s incendiary remarks, which prompted some television networks to cut away, amounted to deepening the partisan divisions of a nation already tense from the cliffhanger election that has moved into overtime.

The president’s supporters have gathered outside

some election offices to denounce the counting, and his media allies unleashed unproven conspiracies and increasingly unhinged statements.

Mark Levin, a conservative talk radio host who is close to the president, urged Republican-controlled state legislatures in swing states won by Biden to disregard the will of the voters and nominate pro-Trump electors next month.

Stephen K. Bannon, Trump’s former senior advisor, suggested on his podcast that the president should do more than just fire FBI Director Christopher A. Wray and Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government’s top infectious-disease expert.

“I’d put their heads on pikes,” Bannon said.

And the president’s eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., tweeted that his father should “go to total war over this election to expose all of the fraud, cheating, dead/no longer in state voters, that has been going on for far too long.”

Trump Jr. and his younger brother Eric also accused Republicans of failing to fight hard enough on his father’s behalf, suggesting the family would remember their perceived disloyalty.

“Have some backbone. Fight against this fraud,” Eric Trump tweeted. “Our voters will never forget you if [you’re] sheep!”

Vice President Mike Pence voiced his support for Trump on Twitter, saying “we must count every LEGAL vote.”

Few Republicans stepped forward to directly denounce Trump in the immediate aftermath of his comments.

“There is no defense for the President’s comments tonight undermining our Democratic process,” tweeted Larry Hogan, the Republican governor of Maryland. “America is counting the votes, and we must respect the results as we always have before. No election or person is more important than our Democracy.”

Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), one of the few Republicans in Washington to occasionally criticize Trump, tweeted a statement saying “counting every vote is at the heart of democracy.”

Trump has long targeted the nation’s election machinery. When polls suggested he might lose to Hillary Clinton in 2016, he claimed the election was going to be rigged.

When he won, he falsely claimed that immigrants living in the U.S. illegally were the only reason Clinton won 3 million more votes overall.

His administration launched a commission to investigate voter fraud but did not come up with any evidence of malfeasance.

Demands to stop (or continue) the vote tallies

As Trump supporters rally in battleground states, Biden backers assert their voices too.

BY TYRONE BEASON, MICHAEL FINNEGAN AND MATT PEARCE

PHOENIX — With President Trump’s reelection hopes looking worse by the hour, pro-Trump demonstrators held rallies in critical battleground states across the U.S. on Thursday as vote counters tabulated the outcome of the 2020 presidential election.

Trump’s supporters have taken up the president’s baseless claims of fraud and his demands to variously stop counting or keep counting votes, depending on whether he’s ahead. As of Thursday evening, the Republican continued trailing Joe Biden in Arizona and Nevada and his lead over the Democrat was dwindling in Pennsylvania and Georgia.

In north Phoenix, about 200 pro-Trump demonstrators chanted “Four more years” and waved signs saying “Count the Votes” outside the state GOP headquarters.

“Count the votes” is a pro-Biden chant in the Eastern states where the president leads, and a pro-Trump one in the Western states where the president trails.

Wearing a red “Latinas for Trump” T-shirt, Clarice Chavez, 55, said that she was a seventh-generation Arizonan and that everything she knows about the politics of her state tells her that a victory here for Trump is a certainty.

She claimed, without giving substantiated evidence, that Democratic election officials in battleground states such as Arizona are trying to thwart Trump.

“We know what the frog is going on across the country,” Chavez said.

At pro-Trump demonstrations at state government and Maricopa County election buildings on

Wednesday night, several people were seen with firearms. Some Trump supporters carried firearms at the GOP headquarters event Thursday.

County officials tweeted Thursday that they were setting up a “free speech zone” outside the complex where votes are being tabulated, “which will allow protesters to be seen and heard while also ensuring that our Elections staff can do their jobs and leave the building without the threat of intimidation.”

On Thursday, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), one of the previous night’s rally attendees, went on Twitter to urge “Phoenix patriots” to gather again at the election office “to ensure a fair vote count.”

His requests: “No open carry. Bring American flags. Trump flags. Bibles.” Right-wing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones also arrived at the scene and fired up the crowd with a characteristically wild speech.

“Burn in hell, Joe Biden! Burn in hell, Bill Gates! Burn

in hell, Fauci!” Jones hollered on a bullhorn, drawing cheers, as he condemned Dr. Anthony Fauci, the country’s top infectious disease expert. “America is awake and we are never backing down, and I want to salute these amazing people out here for days in defiance of tyranny. You are amazing.”

In Philadelphia, counter-protesters were blasting Earth, Wind & Fire music and dancing outside the convention center where the ballot counting was taking place, forcing Trump’s advisors to scream in order to be heard at their news conferences.

Trump’s campaign slowed down the vote counting on Thursday after it won a court order allowing its poll watchers to observe the ballot tabulation more closely — six feet from the election workers.

“Listen guys, democracy dies in darkness,” Corey Lewandowski, a Trump campaign advisor, told a cluster of news media members outside the convention

center where election workers were counting ballots.

He spoke from behind a police barricade near a couple of dozen people waving blue Trump banners and flags. “This is the opportunity to shed light on what’s going on inside this building.”

Pro-Biden protesters nearby screamed, “Count the votes!”

“There’s a lot of disinformation about what’s going on in this facility right now,” said protester Mike Bee, a 31-year-old waiter. “It’s going to be a long process, and we should be patient and count every vote.”

In downtown Atlanta on Thursday afternoon, a small group of Trump supporters gathered outside State Farm Arena to protest the counting of absentee ballots. (Biden was gaining.)

“Four more years!” they shouted. “Four more years!”

“We can’t just stand by and allow this election to be stolen,” conservative activist C.J. Pearson tweeted, with the hashtag #StopTheSteal, for another

rally Thursday night. “We need as many patriots as possible there.”

In Las Vegas, shortly before 6 p.m., at least 50 people had gathered outside the election department. A man nearby screamed about mail-in ballots he said he’d received, stating that he hadn’t gotten one in 25 years but got three this year.

All active registered voters in Nevada were sent a ballot in the mail for this year’s general election.

“They’re trying to steal this thing,” a man told Paula Speight, who held a sign that read “Thou shalt not steal the vote.”

Speight said she came out to protest because Trump has “fought hard for us.”

Times staff writers Finnegan, Beason and Pearce reported from Philadelphia, Phoenix and Los Angeles, respectively. Staff writers Brittney Mejia in Las Vegas and Jenny Jarvie in Atlanta contributed to this report.

BUSINESS

A struggle to rein in false election claims

Group alleging fraud grew to 360,000 before Facebook shut it down. Other social firms also scrambled.

By SAM DEAN AND SUHAUNA HUSSAIN

Efforts by President Trump and his supporters to sow doubt in the integrity of election results continue to pose challenges for Facebook and other social media companies, as the vote-counting process remains underway.

Twitter has worked to restrict tweets from the president that spread false narratives undermining the election, flagging many of his posts as potentially misleading, but baseless claims of election fraud have continued to percolate across the platform at speed.

On Facebook, Trump's supporters are picking up the president's message and running with it, prompting the platform to announce new measures to tamp down on election misinformation Thursday afternoon.

A Facebook group called Stop the Steal 2020, which attracted more than 360,000 members before it was suspended by the social giant Thursday, provided a notable example of how the false narrative is spreading.

The group was created Wednesday by Women for America First, a political nonprofit founded in 2019 to organize protests against the impeachment proceedings against Trump. The group has gone on to organize anti-lockdown protests across the country.

The "Stop the Steal" phrase first gained traction on social media on election day and was boosted that night, when Trump tweeted the unsubstantiated claim that "they" are "trying to STEAL the election." On



JEFF CHIU Associated Press

A **FACEBOOK** spokesperson said the Stop the Steal group "was organized around the delegitimization of the election process, and we saw worrying calls for violence from some members of the group."

Wednesday, variations on the theme could be heard on the streets of U.S. cities where votes were being counted. In Detroit, Trump supporters gathered at a vote-counting place, chanting "count the votes" and "stop the steal," some openly carrying firearms.

Posts claimed without evidence that big chunks of votes were missing or invalid, accused poll workers of being biased against conservatives, or implied that it's taken days to count votes because of malicious activity by Democrats.

As the Facebook group's membership ticked into the hundreds of thousands of users, the group's creators

asked members to provide contact information, anticipating that the platform might soon shut it down.

New members were prompted to enter their contact information at a separate website before being allowed to join. There, members were greeted with a message pushing the conspiracy theory meant to undermine the election: "Democrats are scheming to disenfranchise and nullify Republican votes. It's up to us, the American People, to fight and to put a stop to it." After asking for members' names, emails, and states, the website also asked for a donation.

Facebook suspended the group before 11 a.m. Thursday.

"In line with the exceptional measures that we are

taking during this period of heightened tension, we have removed the Group 'Stop the Steal,' which was creating real-world events," a Facebook spokesperson said in a statement. "The group was organized around the delegitimization of the election process, and we saw worrying calls for violence from some members of the group."

The social media company declined to answer additional questions about the timing of the decision, but it broadly aligns with election-related misinformation policies that Facebook laid out in preparation for what was expected to be a long vote-counting process.

Social media posts and other online media with hashtags or phrases pushing the false narrative that

the election was being stolen from the president surged online over the course of the day Wednesday, peaking before 9 p.m. Pacific before seeing another bump Thursday morning, according to the media intelligence platform Signal Labs.

The phrase "Stop the Steal" itself was mentioned more than 1.2 million times over the same time period, and continued to spread on Twitter on Thursday afternoon. In a statement, the company said that it was "proactively monitoring" the hashtag and that it was flagging specific tweets that contained misinformation. Twitter declined to provide a rationale as to why the hashtag itself — which asserts that there is a theft underway — did not qualify to be flagged across the board.

Twitter's civic integrity policy says that it plans to take action on "misleading information about election outcomes," which includes "disputed claims that could undermine faith in the process itself, such as unverified information about election rigging, ballot tampering, vote tallying, or certification of election results."

Kat Lo, a researcher who studies online content moderation at the nonprofit Meedan, said one of the big challenges of the election is when misinformation is ambiguously presented, such as the type of claims made in the Stop the Steal group. For example, one user posted a screenshot of a ballot tracker, showing their ballot had not been received, and implied it was part of some widespread conspiracy.

"When a post can be feasibly contested, platforms have a difficult time deciding how to police that type of thing," Lo said.

Of the tech platforms, Lo said, Twitter has the most well-developed strategy for dealing with misleading information.

Twitter slaps on fact-checking links and in some cases places a screen entirely over an offending tweet. By contrast, Facebook still centers content that it flags as questionable. While Twitter has moved to block retweets, Facebook does not prohibit sharing.

"Preventing information from being as shareable, as viral, is a crucial part of harm mitigation," Lo said.

YouTube, she said, has struggled to develop and enforce a policy to address gray area content.

"I'm most impressed with Twitter, Facebook is doing alright, YouTube is doing awful," Lo said.

Even if platforms are being more proactive, much of their efforts focus on high-profile figures, and it's "anybody's guess" if they are being as proactive with moderating the rest of their users, Lo said.

Why cold-shoulder your customers at a time like this?

DAVID LAZARUS

It continues to astonish that some companies are refusing to show long-time customers even the most modest flexibility amid a global pandemic that's already killed about 235,000 Americans.

I mean, really? Times are tough, to be sure. Businesses are scrambling for as much revenue as they can get their hands on.

But it seems decidedly shortsighted to strong-arm loyal customers at a time when people need help, and when a little compassion can go a long way toward ensuring future profits.

I say all this after speaking the other day with Barbara Ashton, 76, who had gotten nowhere pleading with Southwest Airlines to allow her to extend about \$156 in unused travel credit past a Sept. 17 deadline.

The Playa Vista resident described herself as being a satisfied Southwest customer for more than 40 years. She called the carrier "my go-to airline, whenever possible, because of the excellent customer service and the flexible policy on changing flights."

Ashton said she and her husband had used the credit, known as Southwest "travel funds," to book a round-trip flight from Los Angeles to San Francisco to see family members in early March.

As the coronavirus spread, the couple decided to forgo the flight and drive north instead. Ashton has an autoimmune disorder called polymyalgia rheumatica that makes her vulnerable to sickness. Her 75-year-old husband, Bruce, has hypertension.

Flying didn't seem wise, all things considered.

Ashton said she knew the travel funds would expire in mid-September, but she assumed it would be safe to travel by then.



AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

A **PLAYA VISTA** couple had to go to great lengths to get Southwest to extend the expiration date on credits they couldn't use because of the pandemic. "It's the principle" more than the money, Barbara Ashton said.

"By mid-July, with no end in sight for the pandemic, I could see that we would not be flying before the expiration date," she told me.

Ashton said she contacted Southwest over the summer and was instructed by a service rep to call back after the Sept. 17 deadline had passed to arrange an extension.

Her husband did just that a few weeks ago. He told me he was informed by Southwest that no extensions were being given. The service rep explained that the airline has to "protect the integrity of our processes," he said.

The \$156 in credit was gone.

I've written about the difficulties some people have faced in seeking refunds for air travel, cruises and hotel bookings that were canceled because of a once-in-a-generation public health disaster.

One of the more eye-opening developments

involved travel insurance companies keeping people's money even though related cruises were canceled.

Needless to say, this is a miserable time to be in the airline business. The four largest U.S. carriers racked up at least \$10 billion in combined losses in each of the last two quarters.

The third quarter is typically a strong one for airlines because it includes summer travel. But American Airlines reported a quarterly loss of \$2.4 billion. Southwest lost nearly \$1.2 billion.

Although carriers say they're hoping things will turn around with holiday travel in the current quarter, they've estimated it will take years to recover from the financial hit they've experienced as a result of the pandemic.

Southwest says it will start selling middle seats again beginning Dec. 1, basing its decision on "science-based findings from trusted medical and avia-

tion organizations" rather than a desperate need for cash.

"Our top priority remains, and always will be, the safety of our employees and customers," the airline's chief executive, Gary Kelly, said in a statement.

Carriers say their air-filtration systems reduce coronavirus risk. Some healthcare experts say the jury's still out.

In any case, Ashton took Kelly at his word. She wrote to him with details of her experience and a polite request that the airline honor its earlier pledge to extend travel credits.

"They wouldn't lose any money," she told me. "We're not asking for a refund. We're just seeking an accommodation as the world goes through a catastrophe."

Ashton added: "It's the right thing to do. It's the human thing to do."

In response to her email to Kelly, a senior-level service rep expressed the com-

pany's "regret" about Ashton's "continued disappointment."

"I understand that, like many of our customers, you've had concerns about traveling, and I'm saddened to learn that you were unable to apply your travel funds towards travel completed by the expiration date," the rep said by email.

She also voiced regret about "any confusion" resulting from the summer-time call in which the airline said the couple should phone back after the expiration date had passed to arrange more time.

"Regrettably, we remain unable to meet your request to reinstate the expired funds," the rep said. "We're truly grateful for the loyalty you've shown us over the years. It's always our pleasure to serve you, and we hope to have an opportunity to welcome you and Bruce onboard soon."

How's that for a kick in the teeth?

Southwest is grateful for

Ashton's decades of loyal patronage and is looking forward to selling her more tickets. But, no, it won't show even a small amount of flexibility amid a global pandemic that's disrupted travel worldwide.

Again, this isn't about a refund. It's about allowing a customer to use a credit she's already earned amid extraordinary circumstances.

Ashton said it's not about the money in her case. "It's the principle."

To me, it's about businesses finally being in a position to act on many years of lip service about how much they value the loyalty of customers — and coming up short.

A Southwest spokesman declined to comment when I asked about the fairness of terminating a longtime customer's travel credit during a pandemic.

But after I reached out to the airline, an executive contacted Ashton and said her credit will be extended for six months.

Good enough, Ashton told me afterward.

"I feel like they did what they should do," she said. "I feel like I'm not losing my money."

I'm glad it worked out. But I'm also troubled that it requires so much effort to get a business to do the right thing.

"We are committed to taking care of our employees and customers while protecting the financial health of our company through the most challenging time in our nearly 50-year history," Southwest's CEO said in announcing that huge quarterly loss.

Those aren't mutually exclusive goals. And customers will remember who was there for them when times were tough.

And who wasn't.

David Lazarus' column runs Tuesdays and Fridays. He also can be seen daily on KTLA-TV Channel 5 and on Twitter @davidlaz. Send your tips to david.lazarus@latimes.com.

Lyft chief willing to deal with unions

[Lyft, from A1]

“We’re ready to work with labor leaders and all interested parties who want to move forward and build a stronger safety net,” Zimmer said in an interview with The Times. “If there’s a way we can work more together, which to me seems totally attainable and seems better, then we should pursue that.”

Zimmer’s desire for peace may seem unusual after his company joined Uber, DoorDash, Instacart and Postmates in spending an unprecedented \$200 million to win the ballot fight and keep ride-hail and delivery drivers classified as independent contractors, a triumph for business and turning point in the conversation about the future of work.

Lyft’s offer also came just hours after labor threatened to expand its fight against ride-hail and delivery companies, a reminder of the gulf between labor and business on how to treat a workplace behind the wheel.

Zimmer has two potential paths forward. He and his allies can use the momentum of their election win to end the feud with unions and strike a deal on a framework for an independent workforce with union representation that can be replicated in other states or at the federal level. Or they can continue an expensive and bitter battle with labor in California and around the country.

Some in labor were skeptical about a deal and view the latter path as more likely unless a compromise between labor and the app-based companies is brokered in another state.

But Rome Aloise, vice president-Western Region for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and president of Teamsters Joint Council 7 in California, said the union could be open to continuing conversations.

“If you don’t have a dis-



AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

RIDE-HAIL passengers at LAX. “The obscene amount of money these multibillion-dollar corporations spent misleading the public doesn’t absolve them of their duty to pay drivers a living wage,” said one labor leader.

cussion, you can never resolve an issue,” Aloise said.

Labor and rideshare and delivery companies have been fighting in California over worker classification for several years. Unions helped pass Assembly Bill 5 in 2019 to require more companies to treat their workers as employees and provide benefits and job protections.

Gov. Gavin Newsom urged a compromise to grant Uber and Lyft an exemption to the state law. When those talks between the app-based companies and unions halted, the companies responded with Proposition 22.

Closely watched across the country, the passage of the measure sent a signal to

corporations, proving they had a new way to write their own employment classifications and avoid paying a full suite of worker benefits — even in a deep-blue state that is a labor stronghold. “People wanted to see where voters stood and this helps clarify that,” Zimmer said of Proposition 22’s approval.

Parties on all sides say a deal could allow for some form of sectoral collective bargaining and the creation of employer-funded portable benefits for industry workers. Zimmer said voters settled the debate about treating app-based workers as independent contractors.

Whether the different factions of organized labor at the California Capitol

share a willingness to negotiate, or can agree to what exactly a deal would entail, remains unclear.

Labor conceded on Tuesday night before Uber and Lyft were officially declared the winners of the Proposition 22 ballot measure contest with 58% of the vote. But the statement from the California Labor Federation read more like a declaration of war than an opening for new conversations.

“The obscene amount of money these multibillion-dollar corporations spent misleading the public doesn’t absolve them of their duty to pay drivers a living wage, provide PPE to protect workers as the pandemic deepens or repay taxpayers for the nearly half a billion these companies have cheated from our state unemployment fund,” said Art Pulaski, the executive secretary treasurer of the California Labor Federation. “The end of this campaign is only the beginning in the fight to ensure gig workers are provided fair wages, sick pay and care when they’re hurt at work.”

Among concerns that stalled earlier negotiations, unions worried that any special employment rules created for Uber and Lyft could open the door for other companies to stop classifying their workers as employees if they don’t want to pay traditional benefits. Some questioned sectoral bargaining,

an untested form of representation in California. Tuesday’s election results dealt a blow to organized labor and gave app-based companies the upper hand, but the measure also created new roadblocks.

Some in labor argue that the language Uber and Lyft included in Proposition 22, requiring a seven-eighths vote of the Legislature to make future amendments, all but nixes any hope of legislators settling the dispute. Labor unions are also considering lawsuits to challenge that provision of the measure in court.

Although both legislative houses maintained their Democratic supermajority on Tuesday, with Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins picking up at least one seat and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon losing one, reaching the seven-eighths threshold to change the measure would be politically difficult and require support from several Republicans.

Representatives for Uber declined to comment on the possibility of a deal. When asked what it would take to bring unions and the industry together again, Zimmer pointed to Newsom. The situation could give the governor another opportunity to forge a deal after his previous attempts failed.

Wedged between labor unions and tech companies, the governor remained neutral on Proposition 22. Days before the election, he said his neutrality afforded him the benefit of being in a better position to broker a compromise “if there is a need, a desire.”

“We need political leaders and third parties to pull us together,” Zimmer said. “I’ve tried. I’ve listened and I will continue to do so. And I think if there are parties, like the governor ... they have a willing and ready partner in Lyft and myself.”



DAVE GETZSCHMAN For The Times

GOPUFF co-CEO Yakir Gola called his online firm’s deal for BevMo “a better and faster and strategic way” to enter the California market. Above, a BevMo store.

Quick-delivery service GoPuff to pay \$350 million for BevMo

BY ANDREA CHANG

Need a case of Chardonnay paired with a side of toothpaste, batteries and dog food? Soon you’ll be able to get that delivered to your door, courtesy of BevMo — and its new owner.

The beverage chain announced Thursday that it had agreed to be bought by GoPuff, a Philadelphia online delivery company, for \$350 million.

The deal, which is expected to close within 30 days, will bring together a household name with 161 stores in the West and a fast-growing upstart with no California presence.

“The plan all along was to get into California,” Yakir Gola, GoPuff’s co-founder and co-chief executive, said in an interview. “This is just a better and faster and strategic way for us to enter the market.”

Although it is little-known in Los Angeles, GoPuff operates more than 200 micro-fulfillment centers serving more than 500 cities around the country. It specializes in quick-turnaround delivery: For a flat rate of \$1.95 (there’s also a subscription option), customers can get thousands of items — cleaning supplies, food and electronics among them — delivered in 30 minutes or less. In several markets, GoPuff deliveries are available 24/7.

GoPuff is still figuring out how to best combine the two companies, with a target completion date of sometime next year. When that happens, GoPuff customers will be able to add BevMo products to their delivery orders.

Gola said the company hasn’t yet decided whether to open fulfillment centers in California, or use some of the real estate in BevMo’s stores to house GoPuff products. It could be “a combination of things,” he said. “We’re still working on that.”

Currently, there aren’t plans to close any BevMo stores, which are in California, Washington and Arizona.

GoPuff has about 3,000 employees and Concord, Calif.-based BevMo has about 2,000. Gola declined to provide financial figures for the companies, which are privately held.

“It’s a very sensible deal,” said Anthony LeCour, who specializes in food and beverage as head of consumer investment banking at Wedbush Securities. The companies complement each other, he said, and both are in categories — alcohol sales and home delivery — that have seen business boom during the pandemic.

Since the beginning of March, U.S. alcohol sales in “off-premise channels” — such as supermarkets and liquor stores — are up 22% compared with the same pe-

riod last year, according to Nielsen data.

The shift in drinking habits comes as consumers spend more time imbibing at home instead of at bars and restaurants, said Danelle Kosmal, the market research firm’s vice president of beverage alcohol. Large liquor store chains such as BevMo and e-commerce sellers have both benefited from the trend, she said.

BevMo already offers local delivery and online shipping; GoPuff sells alcohol in some of its markets, but it’s “not a significant amount,” Gola said.

Nationally, online alcohol sales currently represent a small percentage of overall alcohol spending, according to Nielsen data.

But that, too, is changing — and GoPuff stands to benefit.

“Shifts in shopper behavior during COVID have helped to fuel online growth for alcohol,” Kosmal said. Online alcohol sales were up more than 400% year over year in the second quarter, she said.

GoPuff was founded in 2013. Last month, the company announced that it had raised \$380 million at a \$3.9-billion valuation.

The funding round was led by Accel and D1 Capital Partners; Luxor Capital and SoftBank Vision Fund, a previous investor, also participated.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Stocks rise as investors look past uncertainty of election

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stocks rallied again on Wall Street as a post-election wave of buying continued, keeping the Standard & Poor’s 500 index on track for its biggest weekly gain since April.

Even with the presidential election not yet called, investors were banking on control of Congress remaining split between Democrats and Republicans, which could mean the continuation of low tax rates, lighter regulation and other business-friendly policies.

Tech stocks helped lead the way amid rising expectations that a split Congress would not be as aggressive about targeting Big Tech for antitrust issues. The S&P 500 rose 1.9% on Thursday, bringing its gain for the week to 7.4%.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 542 points, or 2.0%, at 28,390, and the Nasdaq composite finished 2.6% higher, at 11,890. Small-company stocks also had a strong showing. The Russell 2000 small-cap index finished up 2.8%.

Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook and Google’s parent company, Alphabet, all rose about 1% to 3.6%. They’re the five biggest stocks in the S&P 500 by market value.

Shares in cannabis companies were sharply higher after voters in several states cleared the way for legal marijuana for adult or medical use. Tilray jumped 30.3%, though the stock is still down nearly 55% this year.

Broadly, markets are seeing split control of Congress as a case of what Mizuho Bank calls “Goldilocks Gridlock.”

Investors see cause for optimism if either Biden or President Trump ultimately wins the presidency, and what they want most of all is just for a clear winner to emerge. Stocks “fear uncertainty rather than the actual outcome,” strategists at Barclays wrote in a report.

But the expectation that Biden has a chance of winning has also raised hopes that U.S. foreign policies

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	28,390.18	+542.52	+1.95	-0.52
S&P 500	3,510.45	+67.01	+1.95	+8.66
Nasdaq composite	11,890.93	+300.15	+2.59	+32.52
S&P 400	2,037.13	+55.34	+2.79	-1.25
Russell 2000	1,660.05	+44.97	+2.78	-0.50
EuroStoxx 50	2,907.40	+20.13	+0.70	-14.56
Nikkei (Japan)	24,105.28	+410.05	+1.73	+1.90
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	25,695.92	+809.78	+3.25	-8.85

Associated Press

might be “more clear,” said Jackson Wong, asset management director of Amber Hill Capital. He added, “Investors are cheering for that. That’s why the markets are performing well.”

Stocks also climbed across European and Asian markets Thursday.

Wall Street’s rally was widespread, with nearly 90% of stocks in the S&P 500 higher. Qualcomm jumped 12.8% for the biggest gain in the index after it reported stronger revenue and profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected.

That’s been the strongest trend through this earnings season, which is close to wrapping up. S&P 500 companies are on pace to report a drop in profits of roughly 8% from year-earlier levels. That’s much milder than the nearly 21% decline Wall Street was forecasting at the start of last month.

Still, many analysts warn volatility may lie ahead. Big swings could return as the threat of a contested, drawn-out election still looms.

Trump’s campaign has filed legal challenges in some key swing states, though it’s unclear whether they can shift the race in his favor. A long court battle without a clear winner of the presidency could raise uncertainty and drag down stocks, analysts say.

But concerns about big changes in tax policy during the next administration have mostly abated now that control of Congress looks as if it will remain split, said Megan Horneman, director of portfolio strategy at Verden Capital Advisors.

“History tends to tell us that investors like gridlock because there’s really not a

big chance of legislative surprises,” she said.

Split control of Washington also carries potential downsides. Gridlock may lessen the chances of the U.S. government coming together on a deal to deliver a big shot of stimulus for the economy, for example.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury held steady at 0.77%. It had been above 0.90% earlier this week, when markets were still thinking a Democratic sweep was possible that could lead to a big stimulus package for the economy.

The pandemic continues to weigh on economies around the world, with case counts rising at troubling rates across much of Europe and the United States. Several European governments have brought back restrictions on businesses in hopes of slowing the spread.

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OPINION

EDITORIALS

ELECTION 2020

L.A. elections are the winner

WITH SO MUCH attention focused on the presidential election, it might be easy to overlook the two Los Angeles City Council races that were on the ballot this week. But don't. This year's local election broke records and upended the status quo. In short, it was a pretty good year for democracy.

Usually the days after an L.A. election are full of hand-wringing and lamentations about the tiny number of Angelenos who cared enough to vote. It got so bad that in 2014, the Los Angeles Ethics Commission recommended staging an election day lottery with a \$1,000 jackpot to persuade people to vote in future council races.

There was no need to dangle cash prizes this time. Turnout skyrocketed.

One obvious factor was the huge interest in the presidential election. More important was the effect of the ballot measures voters passed in 2015 to move L.A.'s municipal and school board elections from odd-numbered to even-numbered years to coincide with presidential and gubernatorial elections. This is the first year L.A. voters have seen a consolidated election, and participation was even better than election reformers had predicted.

Turnout in the Council District 4 runoff more than quadrupled compared with 2015, with more than 110,000 votes counted so far. In Council District 10, more than 70,000 ballots were cast in the runoff between Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and attorney Grace Yoo; that's a fivefold increase over the 2015 election. Ridley-Thomas won the seat vacated by Councilman Herb Wesson.

Consolidated elections also tend to bring out a more diverse electorate, including a greater number of young voters, renters and Latinos — and this election appears to fit that pattern. That's good. Democracy is not served when so few Angelenos vote.

Tuesday's election is significant for another reason: It could be the first time in 17 years that a City Council incumbent loses reelection. As of Thursday, urban planner and activist Nithya Raman was in a strong position to unseat Councilman David Ryu. Raman was leading with 52% of the vote, although ballots will continue to be counted for at least two more weeks.

Far too often, reelection is a cakewalk. L.A.'s elected leaders have rarely faced qualified, well-funded challengers. The big donors — labor and business groups — line up early behind incumbents, and few challengers feel they can compete, so they skip the race or wait until there's an open seat. As a result, L.A. has many noncompetitive races, which means less debate over the future of the city and lower voter participation.

It's far too soon to declare an end to non-competitive races. But this year has shown that the change in election dates can help level the playing field. Raman said that she chose to run this year in part because of that change. It's refreshing to see this new wave of voters challenge the power of incumbency — even when we like the incumbent. (The Times endorsed Ryu for reelection, in part because of his efforts to reduce the corrupting influence of campaign donations.)

The question now is how this shift in elections and turnout will influence city policy. Raman ran and won with strong backing from progressive activists, and she's laid out ambitious and expensive proposals to develop a non-law enforcement alternative to the Los Angeles Police Department, provide public broadband and create a network of homeless access centers across the city. Ridley-Thomas has said his top priority is addressing the city's homelessness crisis by providing more affordable housing and more extensive prevention and intervention services.

It's hard to see how these new council members will be able to carry out those plans in the near term. The city is facing a \$400-million to \$600-million budget shortfall, and Mayor Eric Garcetti has asked departments to prepare for the possibility of layoffs. City leaders have held off making furloughs and major budget cuts in the desperate hope that Joe Biden would win the presidency and support a federal bailout of cities and states. Still, the city would need \$800 million in federal aid to make up the revenue lost since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Next year's financial picture could be equally dire if the economic fallout from the pandemic continues.

Will all those engaged voters remain engaged constituents? We hope so. There's a lot of important work ahead for the City Council, and the more eyes on City Hall, the better.

Now, saner heads must prevail

TWO FUNDAMENTAL elements of American society are on display this week: voting and protesting. Unfortunately, both those expressions of democracy have veered off track in disturbing ways.

This election has, to state the obvious, been unusually fraught. It's a referendum on one of the most divisive presidents in memory, conducted during a pandemic among a populace distressingly split over issues of race, class and geography at a time of great distrust of essential institutions, beginning with the government.

Now, three days after the election day that capped weeks of voting, we still do not know the outcome. That in itself is neither good nor bad (though definitely frustrating). But President Trump, trailing in some tallies, stepped to the podium in the White House briefing room Thursday afternoon and again claimed that Democrats were "trying to steal the election." He also called ballots that arrived after election day "illegal votes," ignoring state grace periods for ballots mailed before the polls closed.

Having previously sought to subvert the ability of Americans in key precincts and states to exercise their civic duty, Trump's team has launched lawsuits that would stop officials in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Georgia and Nevada from counting votes.

We believe in the right to turn to the courts to redress a grievance or correct a wrong, but here Trump and his army of lawyers are trying to use the courts to undercut democracy. We hope judges recognize gamesmanship when they see it and resist interfering in situations that do not call for it.

Meanwhile, public distress over Trump's verbal assault on the voting process has added fresh energy to months-long protests — including in Los Angeles — over racial injustice that were touched off by high-profile shootings of Black people by police. Some of those protests again spun off acts of vandalism Wednesday night, an unacceptable mutation of our right to peacefully gather and make our voices heard.

And in response to the slow vote count, Trump supporters have been mobilizing. In some places they have acted within their rights and American tradition, such as gathering peacefully outside a vote-count site in Las Vegas. But elsewhere things got dicier. Trump supporters besieged a counting center in Detroit on Wednesday, demanding access to watch the count (there were already a few hundred observers inside the facility), and another one in Phoenix, where a few protesters openly carried firearms, an unac-

ceptable act of intimidation in that context.

Remember, Trump earlier this year cheered on armed protesters who entered the state Capitol in Lansing, Mich., to protest COVID-19 restrictions and a state mask mandate, tweeting, "Liberate Michigan!" And he mocked Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer after federal agents disrupted an alleged plot by self-styled anti-government militia members to kidnap her and try her on charges of treason.

Whitmer later argued, rightly, that Trump's words made a tense situation worse and endangered elected figures in that state. And introducing firearms into moments of public contention is a recipe for disaster, which the nation saw play out with shooting deaths in Wisconsin and Oregon during protests over police violence against Black citizens and broader issues of systemic racism.

Former Vice President Joe Biden (whose team also built a legal brigade) said Thursday that "democracy sometimes is messy. It sometimes requires a little patience as well," and reiterated his position that "each ballot must be counted." But on Twitter, Trump absurdly claimed Pennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina "for electoral purposes" (whatever that means), adding, "we hereby claim the State of Michigan if, in fact, there was a large number of secretly dumped ballots as has been widely reported!"

That magisterial assertion drew a warning label from Twitter: "Some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process." *Might* be misleading?

And now the U.S. Justice Department — which under Atty. Gen. William Barr has morphed into part of Trump's personal legal team — has informed its attorneys scattered around the country that they have the authority to send armed federal agents to state and county ballot-counting sites to investigate potential voter fraud, a favorite Trump bugaboo that, of course, is not grounded in reality. So far there's no indication that the government has deployed those agents, and we urge it to resist such a blatant act of intimidation.

This escalation of domestic tensions needs to end. Saner heads must prevail even if the president cannot, once again, control his impulses to goad, exaggerate and destabilize. Our history of peaceful transfers of power must also include a peaceful embrace of the right to vote, and that includes letting election officials do their jobs and tally the results in peace. Democracy under the threat of violence is hardly democracy at all.

LETTERS



JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

SUPPORTERS of President Trump and Joe Biden converge along Santa Monica Boulevard on Nov. 3.

4 million of us

Re "Facing who many of us are in Calif.," column, Nov. 5

Erika D. Smith notes that about 4 million Californians voted for President Trump and asks, "How is this even possible?" Her bewilderment is telling.

Many Trump voters like his policies but dislike the way he conducted his presidency. Their support has nothing to do with racism or white supremacy.

To name just a few reasons: A recent Gallop poll found that 56% of Americans believe they are better off now than they were four years ago, and he appointed three Supreme Court justices and hundreds of federal judges who we hope will enforce the proper separation of powers, rein in the administrative state and uphold the Bill of Rights.

Trump also deserves credit for the pre-pandemic economic boom, and he made decisions that were in our nation's interest.

Trump's voters recognized that electing former Vice President Joe Biden meant they would get the policies of Sen. Kamala Harris, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Bernie Sanders. All of these are valid, non-racist reasons why 4 million voters in California chose Trump.

VICKIE ANDERSON
Los Angeles

I grew up in Louisiana and lived in Texas as a young adult, and I have many Republican friends and family whom I dearly love. None is bigoted or cruel; they are good, intelligent, honest people. It didn't matter to me if they voted for George W. Bush or other Republicans.

Trump is a different story. This election is about so much more than being a Democrat or a Republican. It's about basic decency and humanity.

No matter who wins this election, I feel like we have all lost. We've found out that half of Americans can look past and even approve of all the horrendous things the president has done. How can anything Trump "accomplishes" be important enough to reelect a man filled with so much hatred?

This election says much about who we have become, and it's devastating.

DEBRA YOUNG KRIZMAN
Santa Monica

Recent polls suggest that an important part of Trump's base is non-college-educated white males. This implies that, in general, college-educated white males are not part of his base. Why is this?

While some believe it reflects the liberal politics on college campuses, I see a different reason: The preponderance of college-level coursework requires students to back up their conclusions with evidence, proof or at least a persuasive argument. College professors evaluate these claims for adequacy.

Members of a group who have internalized the need for evidence before reaching a conclusion are, I believe, less inclined to support Trump.

HOWARD K. MORTON
Newport Beach

Who's really trying to cheat?

Re "Legal assault aims to block Biden win," Nov. 5

President Trump and his backers are pointing the finger and blaming the Democrats for trying to steal the election.

Yet, they are the ones screaming "stop the count" in Pennsylvania and filing lawsuits against multiple states. Three fingers are pointing back at them.

Who is trying to steal the election?

SHERYL KINNE
Van Nuys

There is nothing ambiguous about the legal definition of election day. It was established by the 28th Congress in 1845 as the "Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November." It did not say any day in November.

In those horse-and-buggy days, people allowed

themselves enough time to arrive at a polling location that day, not a day or a week later.

Today, in bad weather, we allow enough time to meet airline schedules, doctor's appointments and the like. A postmarked letter won't change that fact.

Miss the time and you miss the flight. It's as simple as that.

RICHARD STEGEMEIER
Anaheim

Trump's declaration of victory well before the vote count is completed and certified is cinematic.

I am reminded of Humphrey Bogart's character in "The Caine Mutiny" — to paraphrase, "Who stole the strawberries?" while nervously fidgeting his fingers. Similar? Yes it is.

KIM MACCONNEL
Encinitas

This is how a loser sounds when he's going down:

"The sun was in my eyes."

"My shoelaces were too tight."

"The dog ate my homework."

"Stop counting the ballots in Pennsylvania and Georgia."

"Keep counting the ballots in Arizona and Nevada."

How can Republicans possibly be expected to be taken seriously when even Trump has said that if everyone was able to vote, his party would lose?

PETER MARADUDIN
Seattle

Democrats, just listen to voters

Re "No blue wave as tally goes on," Nov. 4

This has been a difficult, emotional time for so many of us. What Democrats must not do is pat themselves on their backs, take a deep breath and prepare to do it all over again in four years.

Thousands of young, smart, caring people have gotten involved in politics. Let's take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity.

Many would be willing to visit "red" counties and really talk to people to find out what they need, want and expect from their government. Let's not ask if they voted for former Vice President Joe Biden or against President Trump. Let's not ask them to rank issues that they think are important.

Just ask and listen. Responses will be difficult to rank and analyze, but we have four years to get this right. We should know by now that traditional polling is ridiculous and worthless.

So many young people want a better world for all

of us. I'm in, and I'll do this work on my own dime.

SANDY POLLACK
West Hollywood

Whatever the final result is, it is quite clear that there was no "blue wave." The numbers are surprisingly very close across the board.

Many people who supported Biden did so because they were really voting against Trump. It appears that national support for the progressive agenda is not as strong as has been portrayed in the media.

The next president will serve a very polarized nation and must tread slowly and carefully when dealing with virtually every issue. Now is not the time for radical proposals and programs from either side.

NEAL REIN
Westlake Village

Suppression? It happens in Calif.

Re "California's grim voting-rights past," Opinion, Nov. 3

I wouldn't give California an A-plus on voting rights just yet.

In 2018, California changed the way we vote in person, making it harder for people who like to go to the polls on election day. We used to be able to walk to our polling place, and only had to wait behind two or three people.

In 2018, I had to drive to a polling place where I waited in line for an hour. Other family members had to wait for two hours, and some people in other communities waited a lot longer.

The 2020 primary and general elections were worse, with even fewer polling places in more far-flung places.

Voting in person should be easy and quick, like it used to be. If it is not, that is voter suppression.

DEBORAH MACKEY
Santa Clarita

Rushing death certificates

Re "Virus reshaping death certificates," Nov. 3

As a practicing physician in Los Angeles for more than 45 years, I would like to add another piece of information to the reason why physicians often don't list an infectious disease as the primary cause of death on the death certificate, even though they know or suspect it is.

The reason is the influence of mortuaries.

On numerous occasions, I have been persuaded by a mortuary not to list it first, as it would then have to be reported to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and would require additional time and paperwork, which might delay the internment and thus upset the family.

Since the death certificate is commonly not felt to be a critical document, and the physician certainly does not want to add to the stress of the surviving family, the request of the mortuary is usually honored, thereby moving the infectious disease diagnosis to a lower category of cause of death or removing it altogether.

This is unfortunate, for reasons clearly stated in the article.

ROBERT DAVIDSON, MD
Los Angeles

Trump and truth

Re "Complaint about COVID news," letters, Nov. 4

I read letters from the president's supporters complaining that the media are anti-Trump. To paraphrase Harry Truman, the media are not anti-Trump; they just tell the truth and President Trump's supporters think it's anti-Trump.

WILLIAM ELMELUND
West Hollywood

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OP-ED

Lessons from this harrowing election

A historically high turnout does not change the fact that voter suppression still drives the system.

By **Franita Tolson**

THE DIVISIVENESS of recent elections reveals that the American political system has been largely unable to communicate the preferences of growing multiethnic and urban constituencies in our society. The election on Tuesday was no exception, with the presidency hinging on a handful of states in which the national popular vote winner has razor-thin margins that will determine victory or defeat in the electoral college.

No matter the outcome of this election, the postmortem will involve assigning significant blame for what pundits had assumed would be a decisive election with a clear winner. Instead, it turned out to be a nail-biter in the few states that mattered. The pundits will blame the polls. They will accuse the campaigns of ignoring key constituencies. They will rant about the electoral college, which trumped the will of the people in 2000 and 2016.

However, all the blame game does is gloss over the key structural failure in our system of elections that, even in conditions of historic voter turnout, permits states to suppress that turnout and disenfranchise a significant number of voters for no good reason.

Voter suppression and disenfranchisement cannot be explained by a polling error or political strategy gone awry. This is a first-order issue of democratic legitimacy because states make it needlessly difficult for people to vote in a system that holds itself out as a democracy. As such, having more reliable polling or running more targeted campaigns won't solve this problem. Neither will fixing the electoral college. Even if we let the people pick the president directly, some combination of states



DAVID GOLDMAN Associated Press

STATES have significant discretion to create unnecessary burdens that make it harder to cast a ballot. Those efforts need to be a focus of the postmortem on this election.

would still make it difficult for segments of their populations to cast ballots.

I fear that in the days to come, this election's impact on the voters will be lost because important questions will go unasked and unanswered. For example, states have significant discretion over elections that has been used to suppress the votes of otherwise eligible citizens. The U.S. Supreme Court has thus far been unwilling to ease these burdens on voters, siding with state elections officials

in a number of decisions that retain pre-COVID-19 requirements for casting a ballot. Despite the global pandemic, the Supreme Court has made it difficult for the lower courts to, for example, extend ballot receipt deadlines and relax witness requirements for absentee ballots. Will we discuss the need to curb this discretion? Or will we commend individuals for voting despite the barriers placed before them, while ignoring that one cannot count votes that were never cast because of these barriers?

Additionally, much of the post-election debate has involved claims that legally valid ballots should be discarded if they haven't been counted by election day. Will we confront the hard reality that a significant portion of the population believes that lawful votes should not count? Or will we comfort voters with platitudes about civic responsibility when their votes are thrown out, even after thousands waited in line for hours to cast their ballots?

The fact that the right to vote

has been under siege in the 2020 election cycle has to be a focus of the postmortem on this election. In addition, reversing this trend of voter suppression and disenfranchisement needs to be the cornerstone of any strategy to improve our system of elections.

Even the best recommendations for electoral reforms will fail to achieve their true potential absent some remedy for voter suppression. One of the commendable accomplishments of this election cycle is that more Americans voted than in any presidential election in history. But arguably, turnout could have been higher if we allowed all eligible voters to cast ballots and if we counted those ballots accordingly. Yet, the story of America has always been one in which our democracy is deemed a success when voters can cast ballots in significant numbers, despite the artificial barriers to voting, the disenfranchisement of those who cannot overcome these barriers and the refusal of the courts to vindicate their rights.

Another commendable accomplishment is that America is on the verge of electing an individual to the vice presidency who reflects our ever-changing demographics. Sen. Kamala Harris would be the first woman, the first African American and the first Indian American to win this national office. But her success would come only because voters persisted, not because the right to vote is treated as sacred.

Indeed, it would be unfortunate if this election's milestones are overshadowed by America's failure to protect the right to vote. Unless we confront this reality, it is this legacy of voter suppression and disenfranchisement that will define the future, and every subsequent election cycle will be shaped by the difficulties voters now face.

FRANITA TOLSON is a professor of law and vice dean for faculty and academic affairs at the USC Gould School of Law. She is the author of the forthcoming book "Enforcing Voting Rights From the Founding to the Jim Crow Era."

An online generation that can't spot misinformation

By **Sam Wineburg and Nadav Ziv**

THE 2020 ELECTION has once again demonstrated how easy it is to spread misinformation online. And universities across the U.S. are failing in teaching students how to identify it. Many colleges offer students guides to evaluate the trustworthiness of websites. But too many of them base their advice on a report from 1998. That's nine years before the first iPhone, and 18 years before Russian interference sparked an urgent discussion on how we interpret information online.

There's something deeply wrong with using advice on the internet of 20 years ago to teach students how they should interact with the internet of today. That demands 21st century skills.

In a report released last month that we co-authored for the Stanford History Education Group, we saw what happens when educators provide students with outdated advice. Most of the 263 college students we tested floundered when trying to discern fact from fiction online.

Students viewed a post of a "news story" from the Seattle Tribune, a satirical site whose masthead proudly proclaimed that "any resemblance to the truth is purely coincidental." Two-thirds failed to identify the story as satirical.

On another task, students examined a site offering "nonpartisan" research that argued against raising the minimum wage. The site is actually run by a PR firm that also represents the restaurant industry. Nine in 10 students never made that connection.

Why are intelligent students falling for misinformation they could easily identify with a quick search? It's not that they lacked strategies. It's that the strategies deployed were forged during the internet's Paleolithic era. To students' detriment, many of these strategies remain prominent on colleges' and universities' guides for web credibility.

Students displayed an almost religious faith in the meaning of domains — particularly dot-orgs. "Reliable sources have .org at the end of the URL," said one sophomore. Numerous college internet guides suggest that dot-orgs are credible because they are restricted to nonprofits. That's just plain wrong. Anyone can purchase or acquire a dot-org, including for-profit companies such as Craigslist and hate groups such as Stormfront.

Students similarly turned to a site's "About" page to determine credibility. One prominent university says an About page can "help determine a mission, point of view, or agenda." A media outlet tells readers to be skeptical if the About page's language is "melodramatic and seems overblown." But dispassionate language is just as dangerous when it confers legitimacy on a shady site. Students should be told that, like Instagram profiles, About pages present curated portraits of how people and organizations want to be perceived.

One of the most common tools for teaching web credibility is called the CRAAP test (standing for Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy and Purpose), popularized by a

librarian at Cal State Chico. Versions of it are used by universities across the United States, including at other schools in the Cal State and University of California systems.

The CRAAP test assumes that websites are like print texts — the best way to evaluate them is to read them carefully. Except skilled web searchers do the opposite. When professional fact-checkers land on an unfamiliar site, their first move is to leave it by opening new tabs and checking other sources.

There's good news too. Our study shows that students who followed the same method as professional fact-checkers upped their chances for success. They learned that the Seattle Tribune was fake news and discovered that the "nonpartisan" Employment Policies Institute was managed by a PR firm that also represents the restaurant industry and opposes raising the minimum wage.

Some institutions, including Rowan University and the University of Louisville, are creating materials based on what fact-check-

It's wrong to use advice on the internet of 20 years ago to teach students about interacting with the internet of today.

ers do. Their lesson plans equip students with strategies to be intelligent digital consumers. And even modest interventions — in one case just 150 minutes in two college classes — can lead to marked improvements.

We're in the midst of an infodemic that imperils our students' ability to make informed decisions. Changing course will require multiple tactics. First and foremost, we need to cut the CRAAP and stop teaching ineffective strategies. We need to create a menu of regularly updated courses that teach students how to recognize misinformation, empowering them to be engaged and thoughtful citizens.

Additionally, we need to work together across departments and specializations rather than mainly putting this challenge on the shoulders of college librarians. Overhauling a 20th century curriculum for a digital 21st century requires a group effort.

Doctors who develop a patient's treatment plan without considering medical advances are negligent. And universities are derelict when they teach or provide source evaluation strategies without considering how today's internet functions.

Because when anti-vaccine content goes mainstream, when Holocaust deniers peddle digital pseudo-histories, and when issues such as gerrymandering and police brutality are litigated online, no one can afford to shelter in place.

SAM WINEBURG is a professor of education at Stanford University. His latest book is "Why Learn History (When It's Already on Your Phone)." NADAV ZIV is a junior majoring in international relations at Stanford.

Biden took the lead, so why aren't Dems dancing?

VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN

AS IT'S BECOME clear this week that Joe Biden might win the White House, Democrats have been taking the fantastic news as we usually do: with disappointment.

And I've been right there with them. *The fact that even one person could still support Trump is horrifying.* Tens of millions? Damned tragic.

For the love of God, how in the *world* could Biden not even win Florida? With all those old people worried about COVID-19? Are voters insane?

And forget about the Senate. Mitch McConnell won again? Lindsey Graham beat the infinitely meritorious Jaime Harrison? The final two nails in the U.S. coffin.

I was brooding when a former Republican, the journalist Windsor Mann, intervened. He had voted for Biden — his first ever vote for a Democrat. He doesn't yet know the folkways of the left.

"I am so tired of the 'I'm depressed' & 'this is a sad day for America' tweets," he texted first thing Wednesday morning. "I refuse to feel bad for saving our democracy."

"Trump out of the White House. That's what matters. It's like liberals want to win hearts and minds more than they want to win elections."

Good freaking point, Mr. Rock Ribs. Now let's hope the votes come in.

What Windsor put his finger on gets past a rehash of the observation that Dems are intrinsically self-defeating. Our wailing and gnashing of teeth arises from a long-standing reluctance to accept that politics is about campaigns, not movements.

The great American pragmatist Richard Rorty made the case for the former in a 1995 essay. When I first read it, I resolved to heed his cautions and accept its consolations for the rest of my days. But this week I forgot that resolution.

Rorty argued that those who want to improve the world must stop seeking "membership in a movement" and instead "throw themselves into lots of campaigns."

As movements, he cited Christianity, Marxism and nihilism. Movements are very cinematic. They deeply engage hearts, minds and Instagram. They promise infinite rewards — and require surrender and self-purification of the individual. But, Rorty wrote, movements are too amorphous to succeed or even to fail. Rather, they disperse, with some tributaries ending in a whimper, others in banality, and still others in Stalin.

Campaigns, on the other hand, don't offer us possibilities like rebirth through Jesus Christ or the creation of Mao's "new socialist man." Their strength, according to Rorty, is goal-oriented specificity, such as "the unionization of migrant farm workers in the American Southwest, or the banning of big trucks from the Alps, or the overthrow (by votes or force) of a corrupt government, or the legal recognition of gay marriage" — remember, it was 1995.

Best of all, campaigns have material deliverables. You know when they're done. Losses can be notched, victories celebrated, even gloated over. By contrast, in movement politics, a campaign must always be subordinated to the Big Picture, a goal so all-encompassing that by definition it can never be fully realized.

Liberals are inveterate movement joiners. They see the promised land somewhere way, way, *way* off in the distance. And, even when success in a campaign seems close at hand, they brood on nothing but the infinite road ahead.

Enough with the perfect. Enough with sniveling.

As of this writing, Biden and Harris are likely to win a hard and momentous campaign, fought through the napalm clouds of Trump's poisonous and twisted holy war. They made it a clean and excellent fight, rousing a coalition of the decent, the disciplined and the clear-eyed who had never worked with so much solidarity before. It was a campaign, not a movement. And the coalition should inspire some awe: a massive American majority.

Here's what we know if Biden's lead holds: In a few months Trump won't be in office. America's disgrace will start to fade, and its spirits will start to rebound. We won't have to endure these loathsome people in power anymore: Bill Barr, Jared Kushner, Ivanka Trump, Don Jr., Mike Pence, Stephen Miller.

We can reenter the Paris climate agreement. Dr. Anthony Fauci will deliver briefings on the pandemic. Our leaders will know their ABCs: Wearing masks works, systemic racism is real and the climate crisis is dire.

We won't hear from the mainstage about how, when you think about it, white supremacy is kind of cool. Or how bleach cures COVID. Or how HunterBidenBurismaQAnon gibberish is coming for your washing machine.

We can reunite with our allies as allies and address threats from our enemies.

As I write this, more and more extraordinary implications of a Biden presidency become obvious. Are we entering paradise? Of course not. But if we recognize what nonsense is behind Trump's desperate election litigation threats, we will realize we are on the brink of closing out a very significant campaign. The one in which millions upon millions of American voters strategized, mobilized and peaceably voted out a tyrant.

I'd burst into tears of joy at the prospect, but my ex-Republican friend says wrong again.

"Spike the football. Gloat," Windsor told me.

I don't have a football. But if Biden prevails, I'll blow out my sad sack "self-care" candle and open my front door and shout, "We won!" into my heavily Trumpist neighborhood. I'll turn up Aretha Franklin. I'm just getting started.

■■■ ELECTION 2020 ■■■

Voters could reshape City Hall in 2022

[Turn, from A1] level.

Locally, voters appeared to favor more progressive candidates on election day and back stronger action on racial justice and a more humane approach to homelessness.

The large voter participation seen in L.A. County has been credited to the presidential race and a new election schedule that synchronizes local races with gubernatorial and presidential elections. At the same time, issues including police reform were at the forefront of voters' minds.

It remains to be seen if progressives and reformers — groups probably helped by a larger turnout of younger, poorer and non-white voters on Tuesday — will also leave their stamp on the 2022 city election. The electorate in local L.A. races has historically skewed toward older homeowners and generally been pretty white.

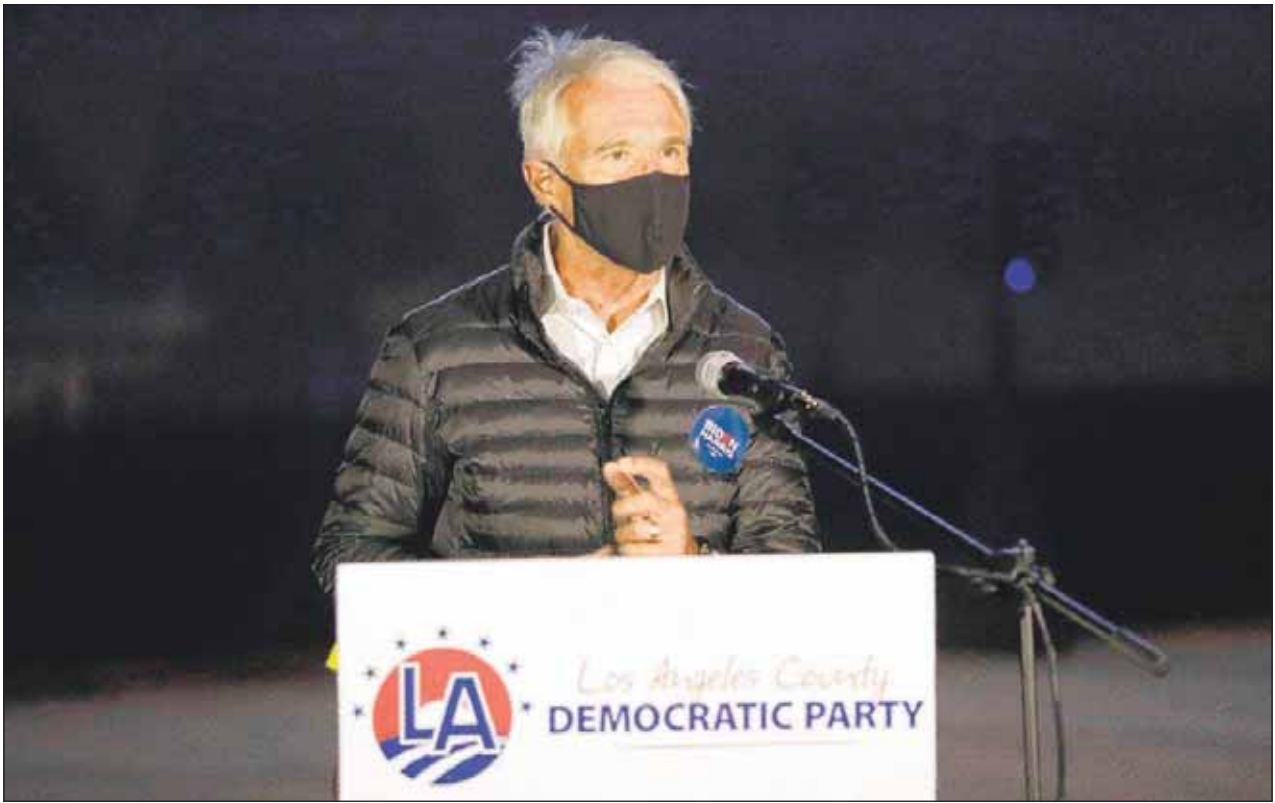
Skeptics note that L.A.'s finances are already reeling from pandemic-fueled tax losses and that City Hall may not have the money to carry out ambitious plans.

But others believe this week is just the beginning.

"I don't think that this is a one-off or some kind of fluke," said Isaac Bryan, who helped run the committee for Measure J, which voters backed Tuesday. The measure will divert more county money to social services and jail diversion programs.

"All of these races demonstrated the values of L.A. County are now going to be reflected in our elected officials. We are tired of the corruption in City Hall," Bryan said. "We are tired of speaking only in rhetoric and not in policy."

Activists argued that Tuesday's results were the culmination of years of work, including regular protests held downtown in an effort to oust L.A. County Dist. Atty. Jackie Lacey, who appeared to be losing her race to challenger George



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

GEORGE GASCÓN is among the three candidates who challenged establishment figures in Tuesday's election. He appeared to be winning his race against Jackie Lacey for Los Angeles County district attorney.

Gascón, former San Francisco district attorney.

Political consultant Eric Hacopian expects many progressive candidates — and even those further to the left — will run for City Council in 2022, inspired by the apparent victory of newcomer Nithya Raman in a Hollywood, Silver Lake and Los Feliz City Council district race.

"There's going to be challenges galore next cycle," Hacopian said. "There's no question about it."

Still, Raman's campaign relied on both grass-roots support and a big war chest to pull ahead of City Councilman David Ryu — a formula that will be difficult to replicate, he said.

Raman was one of three candidates who challenged establishment figures in Tuesday's election, a group that included Gascón and state Sen. Holly Mitchell.

Gascón, seen as a re-

former on police issues, was ahead of Lacey, according to results updated Thursday.

The Times' analysis showed Gascón generally performed stronger on the Westside and in South Los Angeles than Lacey. Lacey pulled in more votes on the edges of Los Angeles County and the western San Fernando Valley, areas that have typically skewed more conservative, the data show.

Donna Bojarsky, a longtime Democratic political consultant and founder of a nonprofit dedicated to building civic engagement in L.A., said she would be cautious about calling the results a progressive wave.

"You could also say there was an anti-incumbent vote," Bojarsky said, characterizing anti-incumbency as a "major factor" in several races.

That sentiment is a far cry from what's typically expected in L.A. politics, where

incumbency has historically carried an enormous political advantage.

"We have to know that 'progressive,' in the context of a city like Los Angeles, has to mean more than just a title," Bojarsky said. "We have to look beyond labels and take enough interest that we know who people are."

She cited the example of L.A. County Sheriff Alex Villanueva, who ran as a progressive reformer in a long-shot bid to unseat then-incumbent Sheriff Jim McDonnell in 2018. Villanueva's tenure has been deeply controversial and brought rebukes from the groups that once endorsed him.

Raphael J. Sonenshein, a local government expert who runs the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs at Cal State L.A., said Tuesday's election shows incumbents will probably have to recalibrate in coming elections.

"Any [City Hall] incumbent is going to have some problems, partly because of the strength of the progressive movement that has its own issues that it really wants to see," Sonenshein said.

"Also, establishment candidates can't win just with endorsements from major players."

Still, progressives have fallen short in recent years.

In the northwest San Fernando Valley — an area with a reputation as a relatively conservative part of L.A., despite having more Democrats than Republicans — City Councilman John Lee has twice defeated a more progressive candidate in the last two years.

Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry and Commerce Assn., challenged the notion that City Hall was suddenly going to enact sweeping changes sought by some activists af-

ter Tuesday.

"There are candidates with bold ideas and then there are elected officials who have to be in touch with reality," Waldman said.

"You can't start giving away free rent, you can't start giving away free utilities. You have to be reasonable."

Mark Ryavec, president of the Venice Stakeholders Assn., said it's his view that if Ryu and Lacey lose, it's because neither is a particularly strong politician. He doesn't see those losses as a bellwether for how residents will vote in 2022.

In some sections of Venice, there is long-standing unhappiness with City Hall over the city's handling of homelessness and more recently, the increase in crime.

Ryavec predicted that the rise in crime will lead to "law and order" candidates on the ballot in two years.

Erick Huerta, an activist and host of the local issues podcast "Orale Boyle Heights," sees Tuesday's results far differently.

He described the success of progressive candidates — Raman as well as Sasha Renée Pérez, a young community organizer who'll be the next mayor of Alhambra — as part of the same momentum that drove New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's insurgent bid for Congress in 2018.

He characterized anger at the Trump presidency as a pivotal driver of political engagement at the local level.

Looking to the future, Huerta speculated that some of the ferocity of that energy might dim in L.A. if the country sees a Biden presidency, with "some folks taking the back seat" as the national situation registers as less of an emergency in liberal L.A.

Times staff writer Ben Welsh contributed to this report.

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LGBTQ candidates notch milestone wins across U.S.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Across the nation, LGBTQ candidates achieved milestone victories in Tuesday's election, including the first transgender person being elected to a state Senate and the first openly gay Black men winning seats in Congress.

The landmark wins came not only in blue but also red states such as Tennessee, where Republican Eddie Mannis, who is gay, and Democrat Torrey Harris, who identifies as bisexual, won seats in the state House to become the first openly LGBTQ members of that Legislature.

According to the LGBTQ Victory Fund, which recruits and supports LGBTQ candidates, that leaves only Alaska, Louisiana and Mississippi as states that have never elected an LGBTQ legislator.

"Torrey and Eddie sent a clear message that LGBTQ candidates can win in a deep red state while being their authentic selves," said the Victory Fund's president, former Houston Mayor Annise Parker. "Their presence in the state Legislature can dilute the most toxic anti-LGBTQ voices and lead to more inclusive legislation."

In New York, attorney Mondaire Jones won in a suburban congressional district, and Ritchie Torres, a member of the City Council, won in the Bronx. Together, they make history as the first gay Black men elected to the U.S. House. Both are Democrats; Torres identifies as Afro-Latino.

The two "will bring unique perspectives based on lived experiences never before represented in the U.S. Congress," Parker said.

With the addition of Jones and Torres, there will be nine openly LGBTQ members of the House come January. Seven LGBTQ incumbents all won their re-election races.

In Delaware, Democrat Sarah McBride won her



KATHY WILLENS Associated Press

MONDAIRE JONES, right, bumps elbows with a supporter after his election to the U.S. House.

state Senate race with more than 70% of the vote and will become the first openly transgender state senator in the country.

"It is my hope that a young LGBTQ kid here in Delaware or really anywhere in this country can look at the results and know that our democracy is big enough for them, too," McBride said as her victory was confirmed Tuesday night. McBride interned at the White House under President Obama and in 2016 became the first openly transgender person to give a speech at a major party convention.

Two other Democrats became the first openly transgender people to win seats in their states' Houses: Taylor Small in Vermont and Stephanie Byers in Kansas.

Byers, a retired high school band teacher, expressed hope that her victory would encourage other transgender people in conservative Kansas.

"It helps those people who are transgender to reinforce that they are people who matter, they are people who are important and they're people who can be successful in their lives," she told the Wichita Eagle.

Before Tuesday's election, there were four other transgender lawmakers in state Legislatures nationwide, according to the Victory Fund.

In Georgia, Democrat Kim Jackson, a lesbian so-

cial justice advocate, became the first LGBTQ person to win a seat in the state Senate. Shevrin Jones, a gay former state representative, accomplished that same feat in Florida's Senate. And in New York state, Jabari Brisport, a gay math teacher, became the first openly LGBTQ person of color elected to the Legislature.

In Oklahoma, Mauree Turner, a Democrat who is Black, Muslim and identifies as nonbinary, won a seat in the state House.

"I have continuously lived a life where folks doubt my voice or the power that I have," Turner said. "I wouldn't have gotten far if I'd let something like that debilitate me." There also were some notable losses.

In Texas, Gina Ortiz Jones, a Democratic former Air Force intelligence officer who is lesbian, had been seen as having a strong chance of winning a sprawling, 800-mile congressional district that runs from San Antonio to El Paso. The seat had been held by Rep. Will Hurd, the House's only Black Republican, who opted not to seek reelection and endorsed Tony Gonzales, the GOP candidate who prevailed on Tuesday.

And in southwestern Michigan's 6th District, Jon Hoadley, seeking to become the state's first openly gay congressman, lost to 17-term GOP Rep. Fred Upton.

CALIFORNIA

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ELECTION 2020

CAPITOL JOURNAL

A win to restore nation's decency

GEORGE SKELTON
IN SACRAMENTO

If Joe Biden really has been elected president, then we truly can begin to “Make America Great Again.”



This country was great until President Trump was elected, running on a once-inconceivable demagogic message that the USA's days of greatness were behind her. He then steadily proceeded to prove his claim, fracturing the nation and sullyng its image overseas.

One of the best things about the election — regardless of whether Biden is victorious — is that a majority of American voters decided that incivility, bullying and lying were not acceptable in their president. We demand common decency and, at minimum, a passable role model that our children can look up to, regardless of politics.

The worst thing about the election — only to be outdone if Trump somehow manages to triumph — is that the majority is slim. More than 69 million Americans at last count — including more than 4 million Californians — apparently decided that the president's abhorrent behavior was not very important to them and was tolerable.

“Seeing this guy in action for four years lying, verbally brutalizing people, mocking people with [disabilities], how could nearly half the American voters say, ‘That's fine with me?’ ” asks Democratic consultant Garry South.

“A lot of people don't like the way he behaves, but they believe he is better for them,” answers Bob Shrum, a former Democratic strategist who now directs the Center for the Political Future at USC. “They are willing to tolerate him because their stock portfolios keep going up.”

“They think he'll be a better steward of the economy.”

That's certainly what I constantly hear from Trump supporters.

But, come on. At one of the most sacred times in our democratic system — election night — this president goes on TV and calls the vote counting “a fraud on the American public ... an embarrassment to our country.”

America's authoritarian [See Skelton, B2]



Photographs by ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

SUPPORTERS of President Trump cheer on motorists on Tuesday in front of the Republican Party's headquarters in Newport Beach. The president has long counted on a foundational support among the wealthy.

Newport stands by its man

In Trump-loving city, faithful like president's economic policies



NASRO MOHAMED, left, and Mohamed Sabul, residents of Irvine, join fellow supporters of President Trump outside the Republican Party headquarters.

O.C. GOP won some by taking gloves, masks off

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

For the last four years, reporters and politicians have descended upon my native Orange County like detectives at a murder scene.

The victim: O.C.'s reputation as a GOP kingmaker.

In 2018, Orange County voters picked an all-Democrat congressional delegation for the first time ever. It came in the wake of Hillary Clinton's victory here over Donald Trump in 2016 — the first time we didn't go for a Republican presidential candidate



since the Great Depression.

Orange County's march toward liberalism largely continued in this election. Trump lost yet again. A slate of Bernie Sanders supporters won their races for Santa Ana's City Council and school board. Democrats made inroads in city councils, school boards and the state Senate, where conservative lion John Moorlach of Costa Mesa is on course to lose his seat to UC Irvine law professor Dave Min in yet another stunning upset.

The conservative powerhouse that Ronald Reagan once described as “where all the good Republi-

By HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

Karina Veliz knelt on the ground and carefully posed her tiny white dog, Coqueta LaDiva, next to a “Vote” sign in the grass and snapped photos for her pet's Instagram.

“Mommy and Daughter Voting to Make America Great Again,” she captioned a photo of herself outside the Newport Beach Civic Center on Tuesday with Coqueta, an 11-year-old Maltese wearing a seersucker skirt, red toenail polish and an “I Voted” sticker.

Like many residents of mega-rich Newport Beach, Veliz, a real estate agent who wore a black Chanel face mask to the polls, voted for Trump because she is delighted by what his policies have meant for her wallet.

“Business owners want to pay less in taxes. They work hard,” said Veliz, who is soon opening a luxury pet boutique. “We had a great economy” before the pandemic, she said. “Everything was growing.”

It is a sentiment widely felt in this coastal cradle of wealth where Trump's well-heeled supporters have clung to hope this week with the election results up in the air. On Tuesday, they thrilled as the president seemed headed toward a polls-busting victory. By Wednesday, uncertainty crept in. By Thursday, optimism waned.

But by and large, their faith in the president remained unshaken. And after four years in the intensely di-

COUNTY REPORTS RISE IN COVID-19 CASES

Health officials renew call for precautions as the daily case count reaches a high not seen since Aug. 15.

By LUKE MONEY AND COLLEEN SHALBY

Los Angeles County logged 2,065 new coronavirus infections Thursday, a single daily case count one health official said hasn't been seen in the region for months.

Over the last two days, health officials have announced roughly 3,900 new coronavirus cases in the county, a total reflecting what has long been warned: The disease is still spreading, and residents need to take precautions to keep the number of infections from climbing further. On Thursday, there were 25 additional deaths.

Though a spike in cases last month was attributed to a backlog of reported tests, the most recent increases are not associated with delays in reporting, public health officials said. The last time the daily case count was this high was Aug. 15, according to The Times' tracker.

L.A. County's seven-day average of coronavirus cases has also increased from about 940 new cases a day in early October to more than 1,275 each day as of last week, health officials said.

In announcing an elevated number of positive cases on both Sunday and Monday — days when the county typically reports fewer new cases because of reporting lags over the weekend — Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said “if that trend holds true, we're going to see higher numbers the rest of the week.”

In another troubling trend, the projected transmission rate has again surpassed 1.0 in L.A. County. That means the number of people who could contract the virus from one infected person is probably rising.

It's estimated that 1 in 670 residents are infected with the virus, county health officials reported Wednesday. Last week, that estimate was 1 in 1,000.

“I thank all of our businesses, schools and residents who continue to make COVID-19 safety measures part of their daily routine,” Ferrer said in a statement.

“Unfortunately, the continued significant increase in cases reflects many instances where basic prevention measures were lacking,” she said. “Unless we can all

[See Cases, B2]

Slanted 'news' clouds Stockton mayoral campaign

Young incumbent risks losing after unproven attacks from a site run by man with a grudge.

By ANITA CHABRIA

Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs, a Democratic rising star with a national reach, is trailing in a reelection bid to an upstart Republican contender — a potential upset driven in part by a local social media page that has become a kingmaker if not a kingmaker in this San Joaquin Valley city.

Tubbs, the city's first Black mayor and a favorite in progressive circles for championing ideas such as universal basic income,

trailed Republican Kevin Lincoln 52% to 48%, though county officials said many mail-in ballots remained to be counted, leaving the possibility of a reversal.

Though Tubbs won his first mayoral election in 2016 with 70% of the vote and an endorsement from President Obama, this time he has been dogged by a social media page whose founder acknowledges he harbors a grudge against Tubbs — and which has hounded the incumbent, and other local political figures, with years of accusations of corruption and misdeeds.

As the city's local newspaper, the Record, has struggled with staff cuts in recent years, the social media page, the 209 Times, [See Stockton, B4]



MAX WHITTAKER For The Times

MICHAEL TUBBS, a Democratic rising star, has faced attacks by the 209 Times, a website and social media page that has filled the hole left by cuts to local news.

Cafe attack seen as hate crime

Men making ‘pro-Armenia statements’ targeted Beverly Hills eatery, police say. **B5**

Season's first rainfall coming

A notable cool-down this weekend could include precipitation, wind and snow. **B3**

Missing girl, 14, found in closet

Three adults arrested in connection with the weeklong incident in Calaveras County. **B3**

Lottery **B4**

L.A. County reports a rise in COVID cases

[Cases, from B1] get back to protecting each other, our recovery will stall.”

The rise comes as the country enters what experts have said will be a particularly dangerous period of the pandemic.

Officials have said that private gatherings are greatly contributing to the state’s increase in cases and that residents should continue to follow oft-recited infection prevention protocols: Practice physical distancing, wear masks in public, stay home when you’re sick, and regularly wash your hands.

Falling temperatures will increasingly push people indoors — where the coronavirus can more easily spread — and approaching holidays will tempt residents to gather with family and friends outside their households, heightening their infection risk.

“We do worry, with the colder weather, more people being inside, the fatigue, people wanting to socialize more, the holidays coming, all of that creates a mix of circumstances that could lead to an accelerating increase,” Dr. Paul Simon, chief science

nardino and Imperial counties are in the purple tier.

Given that cases are on the upswing in L.A. County, Simon said he doesn’t “think we’re going to get to that next tier anytime soon, but we’re obviously watching the numbers closely.”

“We have mixed feelings about jumping into the next tier,” he said. “On the one hand, we want to open things up as much as possible. At the same time, we don’t want to do anything reckless that will result in a new surge and then require that we move backward again.”

With no end in sight, officials acknowledge that Californians may be understandably experiencing some pandemic fatigue, growing weary of living under restrictions that have been in place for nearly eight months.

Ghaly said residents should be applauded for their efforts.

“We know that the pandemic has altered our way of living,” he said. “We’ve all made sacrifices — some we’ve been OK with, others have been really hard — and each of these sacrifices has helped us slow the spread of COVID in our state. And I would say Californians have done an incredible job.”

But, he emphasized, residents need look no further than other parts of the U.S. to see how quickly the coronavirus can roar to life.

“We have to keep these efforts up,” he said. “As we know, cases can begin to skyrocket quickly.”

That’s a reality facing much of the nation now as the coronavirus continues to surge to staggering heights.

Daily new confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.S. have risen 45% over the past two weeks, to a record seven-day average of 86,352, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Deaths are also on the rise, up 15% to an average of 846 deaths every day.

Collectively, the country reported roughly 103,000 new cases on Wednesday, the most in any one day to date, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

Daily new case loads topped 1,000 in 34 states — also a record, according to the latest project data — and the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients peaked in 16 states, including many in the Midwest.

Simon called breaking the 100,000-daily-case barrier nationwide “a very sad milestone.”

“It’s a number, but we can’t forget the sort of personal pain, suffering and trauma that thousands and probably millions of people are experiencing,” he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



NATHAN FLETCHER, left, shown with San Diego mayoral candidate Todd Gloria, is the lone Democrat on the five-member San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Two other Democrats are expected to join him soon.

Democrats poised to lead San Diego, bring change

County supervisor candidates plan to focus on COVID, climate

By CHARLES T. CLARK

SAN DIEGO — San Diego Democrats have made major strides over the last decade to expand their influence in local politics, but one goal that has long evaded their grasp has been a majority on the county Board of Supervisors.

That appears to have finally changed.

With 370,000 ballots outstanding Wednesday, Democrats have already captured a second seat on the five-member board while building a seemingly insurmountable lead in the race for a third seat.

In the District 3 race, which includes coastal San Diego, Solana Beach, Encinitas and Escondido, Democrat Terra Lawson-Remer, an economist and former senior advisor in President Obama’s Treasury Department, has widened her lead over Republican Supervisor Kristin Gaspar.

And in the race for District 1, representing the South Bay, Democrat Nora Vargas, a healthcare advocate and Southwestern College trustee, has a sizable lead over Democratic state Sen. Ben Hueso.

Neither Hueso nor Gaspar have conceded.

In interviews Wednesday, Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, currently the lone Democrat on the board, and Vargas said they feel excited and emboldened to take the board in a different direction and tackle some of the region’s greatest challenges using a more progressive lens.

“Two years ago I won an election breaking through the red wall,” Fletcher said. “As a county we have taken positive steps forward, certainly around mental health and drug treatment. But now we’re going to be in a position to really move, to substantively change the focus, the culture, the direction and the investment of county government in a way that will significantly benefit the people of San Diego.”

Although county supervisor is technically a nonpartisan post, political parties are often involved in supervisor campaigns. The board shapes spending priorities for the county’s more than \$6.4-billion budget.

Lawson-Remer said Wednesday she is excited about changes on the board, but she declined to discuss her priorities until more votes are tallied.

During their interviews, Fletcher and Vargas laid out some of their top priorities for the newly constituted board, which will assume office in January.

Vargas, who will be the first Latina elected to the board if results hold, said a top priority will be helping mitigate the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and pushing for better health equity and accessibility.

She noted that District 1 residents have been disproportionately harmed by the pandemic, saying it’s important for the county to get more rapid testing sites to the region.

She also said she plans to introduce an initiative to increase child-care access and wants to work with her col-

leagues to develop a better climate action plan. And she wants the county to do a deeper dive into allocating behavioral health resources, to look at housing issues from a regional perspective and to better connect residents to their county government.

“I’m absolutely committed to making sure our residents are actively engaged in the process and they feel county government is much more transparent for them,” Vargas said. “Building healthier communities is not just a slogan, but something we can work on together.”

Fletcher pointed to increasing county government transparency and accessibility as priorities. He also expects the newly reconstituted Board of Supervisors to contrast with previous boards in its attitude about climate change.

In recent years, county supervisors have spent nearly \$1 million in legal fees defending its climate action plans. Courts have ruled against the county six times over the last decade for failing to meet state climate standards.

Fletcher said he also believes the new board will change its approach to land use issues, cannabis policy, the county’s jail medical system and the working relationship with Gov. Gavin Newsom.

He said San Diego County has clearly changed significantly over the last several decades, as have voters’ expectations.

“Our job as elected representatives is to make sure we

implement change into policy so that the commitments that were made to the voters are fulfilled,” Fletcher said.

Although many things are bound to change, the Democratic supervisors highlighted some areas they expect the board to operate similarly to past boards.

Fletcher said he expects the new board to continue operating in a fiscally responsible way, making “targeted investments” and working collaboratively despite party differences.

“I think we all come at this in the spirit of collaboration,” Fletcher said, adding he thinks he’ll work well with either Steve Vaus or Joel Anderson, two Republicans locked in a nail-biter of a race to fill East County’s District 2 seat.

“When there are disagreements, that’s what voting takes care of,” Fletcher said. “It’s a healthy thing in democratic bodies to have some dissent and disagreement.”

Vargas praised her predecessor, Supervisor Greg Cox, for already reaching out to help with the transition. She said she too is optimistic that the board’s Democrats and Republicans will work together effectively.

“The children who are going to sleep hungry every night don’t care about Republican or Democrat,” she said. “What they care about is whether you’re actually looking out for them, same as their teachers and people who have been waiting in line for years to get housing.”

Clark writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

‘We have to keep these efforts up. As we know, cases can begin to skyrocket quickly.’

— MARK GHALY, California Health and Human Services Secretary

officer of the L.A. County Department of Public Health, said during a briefing Thursday.

Recent data show that California has seen an increase in its statewide positivity rate for infections from 2.6% to 3.3% over the past 14 days.

Despite the uptick, California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said the state’s rate still compares favorably with the rest of the country, as the test positivity nationwide is about 6.7%.

“Although we’re seeing some trends up here in California, those trends are modest, steady. We’re watching them closely, and certainly [they are] not the same as many of the states throughout the nation,” he said during a briefing Wednesday.

However, the statewide number of COVID-19 hospitalizations has also increased by 13.5% over the past 14 days, and the number of patients in intensive care has grown by nearly 20%.

Though Ghaly said those numbers are not inherently surprising — “we always know when we see increases in our case numbers that roughly three, three-and-a-half weeks later, we’ll see that manifest in hospital increases” — a significant and sustained surge in new patients “will put our hospitals in a difficult position during flu season and when we’re trying to keep up with all other routine healthcare.”

Aside from the potentially devastating health effects, any growth in infections also jeopardizes the ability of California counties to relax coronavirus-related restrictions on businesses, schools and other places and activities.

California’s four-tier, color-coded reopening roadmap is based on two metrics: the seven-day average of daily COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents and the testing positivity rate.

Counties can move into less-restrictive tiers if their numbers improve or backslide if conditions worsen for two consecutive weeks.

Two counties moved backward Wednesday: Shasta regressed to Tier 1, the most restrictive “purple” tier, and Plumas moved back to Tier 3, or “orange.”

San Diego County, currently in the “red” Tier 2, also is at risk of regressing to Tier 1. While in that category, a county’s schools, many businesses and public facilities either cannot operate indoors or can do so only in a strictly limited capacity.

L.A., Riverside, San Ber-

California Democrats overplayed their hand

[Skelton, from B1] adversaries must have been celebrating.

Even if Trump is ousted from the Oval Office, it was not the exhilarating election night that many Democrats had anticipated.

They had envisioned a Biden landslide that would sweep in Democratic control of the Senate and add seats to the party’s House majority. But Republicans could retain Senate control and chip away at Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s slim House majority.

The GOP also seems on the verge of winning back two or three House seats in California that it lost two years ago. Democrats, however, have apparently added to their massive majority in the state Senate.

But how did Trump add to his rock-solid base, debunking the Democratic thesis that his support couldn’t grow beyond its 2016 level?

“Trump was able to identify supporters and get them out to vote in sort of an old-fashioned way,” Democratic strategist Bill Carrick says.

Those big campaign rallies with all the unmasked Trump zealots that many Democrats belittled as no longer needed in the



JOE BIDEN and his wife, Jill, after he addressed the election results Tuesday in Wilmington, Del.

era of social media? They worked by energizing voters. But national polling didn’t show it.

Shrum believes that many people polled were “shy voters who didn’t think it was socially correct to say they were for Trump.”

“In retrospect,” South says, “it may have been a mistake for Democrats across the board to make this election all about health insurance.”

About 92% of Americans already have health insurance — about 68% through their employers. Democrats act as if half the American

population is uninsured. They’re preaching to a crowd that is already insured. People ask, ‘What does that have to do with me?’”

In 2018, running on healthcare worked for Democrats. But campaign consultants, like generals, often make the mistake of fighting the last war.

The Democrats’ running against Trump’s mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic did seem to work.

During the presidential primaries, however, the Democratic candidates’ liberal yakking — although

not by Biden — about “Medicare for all” probably scared off voters, especially when Trump bellowed “socialism.”

In California, the national hesitation to side with Democrats was reflected in the outcome of five ballot propositions.

Two measures placed on the ballot by the Democrat-dominated Legislature were rejected. One was Proposition 16, which would have repealed the ban on affirmative action in public education, contracting or employment based on race, ethnicity or gender. The second, Proposition 18, would have allowed many 17-year-olds to vote.

Voters passed Proposition 22, which repealed the major part of a bill the Legislature passed to require many companies to reclassify independent contractors as employees. The measure will allow ride-hail and delivery drivers to keep working independently, a major defeat for labor.

In rejecting Proposition 25, voters scuttled legislation that eliminated the requirement of cash bail for release from jail.

Proposition 15 would have raised commercial property taxes and was

trailing by roughly 3.6 percentage points at last count. It was sponsored by labor unions and strongly supported by Democratic leaders including Gov. Gavin Newsom.

“Sacramento Democrats ought to be asking themselves whether they’re out of step with Californians,” says Republican consultant Rob Stutzman, a “never Trumper.”

“On policy stuff, California is not as liberal as some of the California leaders,” asserts moderate GOP consultant Ray McNally.

Regardless of the Democrats’ weaker than expected showing nationally, Biden still beat Trump by roughly 2 to 1 in deep blue California.

But one-party rule can be dangerous. In Sacramento, Democrats need to discipline themselves against veering too far left of the electorate — as they did with those ballot measures.

For America to become great again, we need to revive the democratic system envisioned by our founders. That system encourages politicians to compromise, gradually improving our opportunities and conditions while being a beacon of freedom to the world.

We lost that with Trump.

CITY & STATE



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Edison has been at the center of the investigation into the Bobcat fire. Last month, the utility told regulators that tree branches may have caused a spark by touching a conductor line.

Edison is sued by ex-worker

Retiree seeks compensation after the Bobcat fire destroyed his home

By HAYLEY SMITH

Richard Passmore was celebrating his fourth month of retirement from Southern California Edison when flames from the Bobcat fire began creeping toward his Juniper Hills home.

The 63-year-old watched as smoke rolled into the valley. He knew it was time to leave when he heard bulldozers creating fire breaks and saw planes dropping retardant on the other side of his hill.

From the safety of a friend's house, he watched as flames lapped at his neighborhood through aerial footage on TV. Another friend called him a few days later with a report.

"It's gone, Rich," his friend said.

Passmore's home, along with more than 80 others in the Antelope Valley, was destroyed by the fire, which burned more than 155,000 acres after igniting Sept. 6.

Now, Passmore is the lead plaintiff in the first lawsuit against Edison — his former employer — for its alleged role in the blaze.

"Mr. Passmore devoted his entire 36-year career working diligently as a meter reader for Edison, only to have Edison burn down his home after he retired," the court documents say.

The complaint was filed Thursday in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Edison has been at the center of the investigation into the fire's start since September, when federal officials first began to focus on utility equipment near Cogswell Dam.

Reached by phone Thursday afternoon, Edison spokesman Chris Abel said

the agency was not aware of the lawsuit.

"We at Edison keep in our thoughts all those who have been affected, and currently are being affected, by wildfire," Abel said.

In October, the company filed a letter with the California Public Utilities Commission notifying regulators that tree branches in the vicinity of the dam may have created a spark when they came into contact with a 23-foot conductor line owned by Edison.

The company had previously said a circuit at its Dalton Substation "experienced a relay operation," indicating a disturbance just five minutes before the fire was first reported.

"The fire was caused by, ironically, the company that I retired from," Passmore said.

The Bobcat fire destroyed at least 170 homes and structures as it burned for weeks, according to data from the U.S. Forest Service. It also forced thousands of evacuations, choked the region with ash and smoke and, at one point, came within 5 feet of the historic Mt. Wilson Observatory.

It was one of the largest fires in L.A. County history.

Edison filed its report with the utilities commission after Forest Service investigators requested some of their equipment for inspection, according to the letter. A representative from the Forest Service said Thursday that its investigation is ongoing.

The lawsuit alleges that Edison failed to maintain clearances between its energized conductors and vegetation, as required by code.

"Edison had a duty to properly construct and maintain its electrical infrastruc-

ture and ensure that surrounding trees and vegetation were trimmed and kept at a safe distance," the suit says. "Had Edison acted responsibly, the Bobcat fire could have been prevented."

The suit also said the agency failed to implement a public safety power shutoff that could have prevented a fire from sparking after the National Weather Service issued warnings about strong winds, high temperatures and low humidity around the time of the fire.

Passmore said he purchased his home in 1997 and paid it off 3 1/2 years ago. He cancelled his bank-required homeowner's insurance when the loan was paid off, and was planning to sell the property and move to Idaho.

"That's still my plan," he said Thursday, "but now I just have to go about it in a different route."

Five additional plaintiffs were named in the lawsuit, including two brothers whose Llano home was destroyed by the blaze along with livestock and an urn containing the ashes of their mother. Three other Juniper Hills residents are also seeking damages from Edison.

In California, utilities can be found liable for wildfire damage under the state's inverse-condemnation law, which is the "flip side of eminent domain," said Passmore's attorney, Alexander "Trey" Robertson.

"Where a government or quasi-government agency does something to damage your land, like burn it from a wildfire, they then have to pay fair market value for the property that they damaged or destroyed," he said.

Attempts by utility companies to challenge inverse condemnation through the courts have failed, Rob-

ertson said, although the state did push for the establishment of a \$10-billion wildfire fund in 2019 to help keep utility companies from going bankrupt.

Edison, a privately owned public utility, is one of the largest electric utilities in the nation, according to the suit. Robertson said the complaint also allows room for subcontractors, such as tree-trimmers and vegetation managers, to be added as co-defendants if they are found to have played a role.

Robertson is also representing about 1,700 plaintiffs in other cases against Edison for its alleged role in the 2018 Woolsey fire, which burned 96,000 acres, and the 2017 Thomas fire, which burned 281,000 acres.

Combined, the two fires destroyed more than 2,700 structures and killed at least five people, according to numbers from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Abel, the Edison spokesman, said the company has reached some settlement agreements around the Thomas and Woolsey fires, and that it will "continue to explore reasonable settlement opportunities with other parties."

"No admission of wrongdoing or liability was made in reaching these settlements," he said.

Passmore said he lost nearly everything in the fire, and he doubts he will collect on all of his losses.

"Things happen — people get sick, people get in accidents, and you just have to deal with whatever your circumstance is," he said. "We all have a load to carry."

Times staff writer Joseph Serna contributed to this report.

Missing girl, 14, found hiding in closet; 3 arrested

By FAITH E. PINHO

A weeklong search for a missing 14-year-old in Calaveras County ended Oct. 30 when authorities discovered a trapdoor leading to a makeshift sleeping area under a home where the girl had gone to spend the night and found the teen hiding in a closet, sheriff's officials said.

Three adults were arrested in connection with the Sacramento-area incident, which was initially reported as a missing person's case, authorities said.

Isaiah Haggard, 20, and his mother, Annie Pearl Abernathy, 41, both of West Point, were charged with felony child endangerment, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and providing false information to a peace officer, court records show. They were being held in lieu of \$100,000 each, but their bail was lowered to \$20,000 each, according to the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office.

Another West Point man, whom sheriff's officials identified as Jose Tinocopureco, 34, was arrested on suspicion of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and providing false information to a peace officer. He has since been released from custody, sheriff's officials said.

Before the girl was reported missing by her family, she was given permission to spend a few nights at her friend's West Point home, southeast of Sacramento, authorities said. When her grandmother arrived to pick the teen up on Oct. 22, the adults in charge told the woman she had already left. The girl's family immediately called sheriff's deputies, who came to the house to investigate, according to a news release.

Deputies interviewed Abernathy, Haggard and Tinocopureco, the latter of whom was a tenant in the house, Sgt. Greg Stark said.

"Occupants at the residence told deputies that [the girl] had left and was last observed walking down the driveway," a sheriff's release said.

The Times is not naming the girl to protect her privacy.

Detectives launched a broad investigation into the missing teen, interviewing friends and acquaintances, canvassing the area and searching through the girl's cellphone records. Meanwhile, Stark said, the girl's family members occasionally

drove by the property where she had last been seen, leading the homeowners to ask for law enforcement patrols to protect them from "being harassed by local townspeople."

"They were painting themselves as the victims when they were, in fact, victimizing," he said.

Although detectives had already searched the house when the child was first reported missing, "new information" led them back to the property eight days later, according to a news release.

Detectives obtained a search warrant to secure the suspects' electronic devices. "They believed there was some communication between the occupants and" the girl, Stark said.

When sheriff's deputies returned to the property Oct. 30, Haggard and Abernathy met them in the front yard and insisted the girl was not there. Inside the house, deputies found a man who was not identified who had a warrant for an unrelated, minor crime and cited him, said Stark, who added that there were also other children of Abernathy's inside.

Officials found the missing girl hidden in a closet, crouching beside a crossbow, Stark said.

"Detectives located [the girl] deep within the corners of two adjoining closets as she was intentionally hiding amongst densely hanging clothes," a news release said. She "was removed from the closet and found to be unharmed."

The girl spoke with deputies and did not require immediate medical attention, Stark said. It was unclear why she was in the closet, but authorities said she was "intentionally hiding."

"I don't think it matters what she was doing," Stark said. "The suspects in this case failed her at every turn. They could have gotten her help.... They took advantage of a 14-year-old girl."

The officers also found a trapdoor leading to a hiding spot on the dirt floor under the house, according to the news release, where they discovered the girl's phone among makeshift bedding.

"We're not sure if she was sleeping there only [or] if she was there continually being concealed, but it's pretty obvious that she was sleeping in a hole under a house," Stark said.

Child Protective Services temporarily took custody of Abernathy's other children after their mother was arrested, Stark said.

L.A. allows businesses to enforce mask order

By HAYLEY SMITH

The Los Angeles City Council voted Wednesday to authorize businesses to refuse to admit or serve patrons not wearing a face covering.

The proposal was first introduced by Councilman Herb Wesson in July.

"Small-business owners and their employees are risking their lives to stay afloat in the midst of this economic and public health crisis," Wesson said at the time. "Wearing a mask saves lives, and this simple, common-sense law will save lives and allow us to beat this virus sooner rather than later."

The council adopted the ordinance unanimously, with no discussion. Wesson, who is trailing in his bid for a seat on the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, was not present. The ordinance will expire when the city's coronavirus declaration of emergency is lifted.

Masks have been mandatory in the city since May, when Mayor Eric Garcetti issued an order requiring face coverings when outside the home or near other people. In deeply Democratic Los Angeles, residents have generally taken to the mask mandate, especially inside stores.

But businesses had been

left with little recourse when customers weren't compliant. One woman's anti-mask tirade went viral after she refused to mask up in a North Hollywood Trader Joe's, and a taco restaurant temporarily closed its two locations after employees were harassed by customers over its "no mask, no service" policy.

"Any business owner or operator in the City of Los Angeles is authorized to refuse admittance or service to any person who refuses or fails to wear a Face Covering when on the premises of the business or when seeking or receiving service," the ordinance states.

Los Angeles County is in the "purple" tier of the state's color-coded reopening system, meaning the highest risk of local infection.

As of Wednesday, the county has reported more than 307,000 cases of coronavirus and 7,076 deaths.

The county's positivity rate, or the percentage of tests that come back positive, is also climbing, increasing to 2.7% from 1.8% two weeks ago, according to the state's coronavirus dashboard.

Wesson's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

City News Service contributed to this report.

Coming: a big change in the weather

Region could see its first rainfall of the season, forecasters say.

By LILA SEIDMAN

After the election, even the weather is polarized these days.

Dry and warmer-than-normal temperatures across Southern California will make way for a notable cool-down this weekend that may include rain, gusty winds and mountain snow, the National Weather Service reported.

After an unseasonably warm day Thursday — with temperatures in the 80s and 90s in some inland areas — a low-pressure system is expected to move from the Pacific Northwest into California on Friday, followed by a second system over the weekend.

"Tomorrow we're in for a big change," said Kristen Stewart, a weather service meteorologist in Oxnard.

Parts of Los Angeles County could see rain for the first time in months, and temperatures will plunge into the 60s by Saturday,



DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

RAIN clouds over downtown Los Angeles. Parts of L.A. County could see rain for the first time in months, and temperatures will plunge into the 60s by Saturday.

Stewart said.

Rain could arrive Friday and stay into Saturday, with a slight chance of showers Sunday, Stewart said.

Downtown L.A. and nearby areas could see up to a quarter-inch of rain, said Stewart, who described the coming weather system as "the first rain event of the season."

The storm could also bring fresh snow to higher el-

evations.

Southern California's mountains are expected to see snowfall above 5,000 feet, Stewart said.

The California Department of Transportation will require motorists to use chains on their tires in mountainous areas.

Elsewhere, the same system is predicted to bring a foot of snow to the Lake Tahoe region as it sweeps

into the Sierra Nevada. The area has been experiencing record or near-record high temperatures for the last week.

The about-face comes after weeks of punishing heat and dry winds that have sparked destructive wildfires up and down the state.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Slanted ‘news’ clouds race

[Stockton, from B1] named for the local area code, has amassed nearly 100,000 followers on Facebook and 118,000 on Instagram. Motecuzoma Patrick Sanchez, one of the founders of the 209 Times, said it has millions of interactions with viewers on its website and social media pages every month, making it one of the area's most popular sources of information.

San Joaquin County has about 760,000 residents, with roughly 310,000 in Stockton. About 50,000 voted in the mayor's race.

Local political pundits said the 209 Times has clout with voters and damaged Tubbs' reputation by attacking him with relentless, and unfounded, allegations of corruption.

"He was wounded by the 209 Times," said Michael Fitzgerald, a former metro columnist for the Stockton Record who has followed local politics for three decades.

It "just created this false narrative about Tubbs, and they just kept pounding that narrative," he said.

The 209 Times has run articles, often with no proof,



Kevin Lincoln

KEVIN LINCOLN, a pastor and former Marine, is leading Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs.

alleging that Tubbs has misappropriated millions of dollars earmarked for city programs, lied about his involvement with an unpopular idea to use the county fairgrounds as part of a state-funded site for homeless people, and put personal interests ahead of his elected role.

Daniel Lopez, Tubbs' spokesman, said the allegations were "outright lies."

"209 Times is a perfect example of what you are seeing in the country. It's 'pick your own news,'" Lopez said. He took particular issue with recent allegations that Stockton had received and misused \$60 million in state funds meant for reducing homelessness.

"To address our challenges we need an informed public," he said. "How can we have a dialogue around homelessness, for example, when the 209 Times persuades residents that we've been given \$60 million for this issue, when in reality we only have \$6.5 million? I'm sure a good number of Stocktonians reading this article will learn for the first time that the \$60-million number is fake, yet some will still believe regardless."

Sanchez, the 209 Times founder, said the goal of his publication isn't to be fair or balanced, though it identifies itself as a news and media company on Facebook. It also sells political and other advertising.

"We are not journalists. I looked at it like we were a guerrilla group up against the mainstream army," Sanchez said. "We are not asking their side of it. We are telling you what we know. We never tried to hide our bias." Stockton observers say Tubbs also faced other obstacles to reelection — including opposition from police and firefighters unions. The local police union gave \$25,000 to Lincoln, according to campaign filings, and its president, Charles Harris, said the union thinks Lincoln will be better at "actually tackling the issues at hand of homelessness and quality of life in Stockton."

Tubbs also received blowback involving a plan to build housing with low-income units on a closed golf course in a wealthier part of Stockton. At the same time, Tubbs' profile has grown on the national political stage, and he is considered an up-and-comer in Democratic circles. Though he grew up on Stockton's poor south side with a single mother and an incarcerated father, he attended Stanford University and returned to Stockton after graduation.

He successfully ran for City Council at age 22 in 2012, receiving a \$10,000 campaign contribution from Oprah Winfrey. Four years later, he ran for mayor and won, becoming both the city's first Black mayor and

its youngest.

Helped by a philanthropy, Tubbs has launched a basic income experiment in Stockton and brought in \$20 million in nonprofit grants to fund a scholarship program to increase the number of local high school graduates who attend college. He pushed the city to start a chapter of Advance Peace, a violence reduction program. The 209 Times has alleged corruption in all those endeavors, though there have been no official indications of wrongdoing.

Lincoln, Tubbs' challenger, is a former Marine who serves as a pastor and identifies as Latino and Black — his grandfather emigrated from Mexico. He has never held political office, though he ran for an Assembly seat in 2016.

Lincoln said the 209 Times "definitely strikes a chord with the readers in our city and provides more insight with regards to the issues," but he believes it was his message of "bridging the gaps of division of our city" and voter outreach that has put him ahead.

"I have done everything I could to engage the people of Stockton," Lincoln said.

Sanchez said that he decided to target Tubbs in the 209 Times in part because Tubbs opposed him when Sanchez, a local organizer, lobbied to reopen a library branch that had been closed because of the city's financial troubles. Tubbs voted against the idea when it came before the Stockton City Council.

"It was a personal promise that I told him, 'Anyone who votes against this library opening, I am going to vote against you.' So four years later, it's a promise I kept," Sanchez said. "The way that we see it is basically we are the primary reason Michael Tubbs is losing."

Though Sanchez concedes his site is one-sided, he disputed that his stories include false information, pointing out they sometimes include documents obtained through California Public Records Act requests, though often without response from the targets of their accusations. Sanchez said he's "created a new way to deliver news, which is a crowdsourced form of information."

Another activist involved in the 209 Times, Frank Gayaldo, said "truth can be very controversial."

Tubbs is not the first politician Sanchez's site has gone after. In 2018, it helped unseat San Joaquin County Sheriff Steve Moore, who faced multiple scandals involving his role as coroner and sexual harassment complaints in his office. It has also been repeatedly critical of San Joaquin County Dist. Atty. Tori Verber Salazar.

Recently, the 209 Times posted pictures of a Tracy mayoral candidate from a gay dating app, implying that the app was associated with human trafficking and that participation on it was problematic.

The candidate, Dan Tavares Arriola, is now a City Council member and the first openly LGBTQ elected official in Tracy. He said associating the dating site with human trafficking was homophobic.

"For organizations like the 209 Times to spread disinformation is incredibly concerning and hurtful to our community," he said.



RAUL ROA Times Community News

TITO ORTIZ, shown at a Huntington Beach rally last month, has called the coronavirus a "political scam." He won a seat on the City Council this week.

GOP stays alive in O.C. by downplaying virus

[Arellano, from B1] cans go to die" is now supposedly dead, according to progressive activists. But there's still life in the O.C. GOP corpse.

The cure? Pretending the coronavirus isn't a thing.

COVID-19 has walloped Orange County, with more than 61,000 cases and nearly 1,500 deaths. But in the coastal cities that remain the Republican Party's last true stronghold, residents and politicians have waged war against its inconvenience to their blessed lives.

Restaurants have proudly flaunted public safety guidelines restricting indoor dining. Cities and school boards filed lawsuits against California Gov. Gavin Newsom's shutdowns. Protests against the simple act of wearing a mask draw thousands.

In polite society, such callous disregard for public health gets you shunned.

In Orange County? It gets you elected.

Dr. Jeffrey Barke, who retained his board seat in the services district that oversees the unincorporated community of Rossmore, is a far-right darling for casting doubt on the effectiveness of masks to combat the spread of the coronavirus and insisting its fatality rate "is in the ballpark of a bad seasonal influenza."

Down in the southern tip of Orange County, San Clemente Councilman Gene James won reelection with tough-guy Facebook talk such as saying he "will no longer be complicit with the tyranny of Sacramento" and its coronavirus policies.

In Newport Beach, incumbent Councilman Will O'Neill took the bold stance in February of opposing the transfer of any coronavirus-infected patients to a facility ... in neighboring Costa Mesa. Meanwhile, City Council candidate Noah Blom got an F from the Orange County Register over the summer — not for

his political agenda, but for allowing workers at his restaurant to not wear masks and operating "the indoor dining room and bar as if the pandemic has never happened."

Both easily won their races.

Orange County's two most prominent political coronavirus skeptics also happen to be in the lead for far-more-prominent seats and have introduced a new era of wackiness to the annals of the O.C. GOP.

In the 48th Congressional District — which stretches from Seal Beach to Laguna Beach and encompasses all of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach — Michelle Steel leads incumbent Harley Rouda by a couple of thousands of votes. If she wins, the Orange County supervisor would make history as the first Korean American congresswoman.

Her platform has largely rested on the usual GOP canards of low taxes, border enforcement and trashing sanctuary cities. But Steel has also become prominent as a coronavirus quote machine — although her rhetoric is more Michael Scott from "The Office" than Winston Churchill.

In April, Steel sent out a news release opposing Newsom's beach closures by boasting that Orange County was "flattening the curve" on coronavirus cases and had kept hospitalization rates stable. A month later, both figures skyrocketed.

She then earned national ridicule this summer for insisting that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advocated for "species discrimination" because the agency advised Americans not to put masks on their pets. "If it's not healthy for the dogs," Steel concluded during a Board of Supervisors meeting, "it's not healthy for us to be wearing it."

Steel's campaign litera-

ture mostly shows her maskless, even if she's talking to older constituents. Yet the congressional candidate had the gall during one commercial to proclaim she "delivered on coronavirus" without exactly spelling out what she did.

The best that can be said about Steel's approach to the coronavirus is that she hasn't gone on a podcast to call it a form of "population control" and a "political scam" that would disappear by election day.

That would be mixed martial arts legend Tito Ortiz, who just won a seat on the Huntington Beach City Council.

Ortiz is such a political novice that the Surf City native originally announced he wanted to run for Huntington Beach mayor, even though the position isn't elected. He freely shook hands and mugged for photos with maskless supporters during campaign events, and recently told a reporter that the ventilators that keep alive COVID-afflicted victims were actually "speeding up the process" of the sickness.

All this happened months after Ortiz told a group of cheering Huntington Beach residents that "antifa [and] Black Lives Matter" promised to visit Surf City to "burn this city down" and "rape the women and the children."

Ortiz finished in first place.

Neither Steel nor Ortiz returned a request for comment. It appears both will win and make headlines, but it's also a last true gasp for this type of craziness. Joining Ortiz on the Huntington Beach City Council will be two progressive Democrats. And even if Steel wins, her margin will be so thin that the Democrats will have an easy time picking her off during the 2022 midterm election....

If the coronavirus is finally gone by then, amirite?

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Legal Notices

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church of Chatsworth, CA will end its ministry on November 1, 2020. Any outstanding debts and/or financial obligations must be submitted in writing to the treasurer at San Fernando Presbytery at 14225 Roscoe Blvd. Panorama City, CA 91402 by the close of business day, December 1, 2020.

Legal Notices

Notice is given that application has been made to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Northeastern District, 340 Madison Avenue, Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10173-0002, on or about October 29, 2020 for consent to merge Broadway Federal Bank, f.s.b., Los Angeles, California 90036 into City First Bank of DC, N.A., Washington, DC 20009. Application also has been made to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Northeastern District, 340 Madison Avenue, Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10173-0002 on or about October 29, 2020, as specified in 12 C.F.R. Part 5, for permission for City First Bank of DC, N.A. to establish a branch office at the site of a branch office of Broadway Federal Bank, f.s.b., located at 170 North Market Street, Inglewood, CA 90301, immediately prior to the merger of Broadway Federal Bank, f.s.b. into City First Bank of DC, N.A.

It is contemplated that the branch offices of the above named banks, and the main office of City First Bank of DC, N.A., will continue to operate. Broadway Federal Bank, f.s.b. will close its branch at 5055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90036 but this closure is unrelated to the merger.

This notice is published pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1828(c), 12 U.S.C. § 36, and 12 C.F.R. Part 5. Anyone may find information regarding the applications (including the closing date of the comment period and the public portion of the applications) in the OCC Weekly Bulletin available at www.occ.gov. Anyone may submit written comments on these applications by the closing date of the comment period to: Director for District Licensing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 340 Madison Avenue, Fifth Floor, New York, New York 10173, or NE.Licensing@occ.treas.gov. The public files are available on request. Written requests for a copy of the public files on the applications should be sent to the Director for District Licensing.

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HUCOC
□ □ □ □ □

GNIES
□ □ □ □ □

RAAYIV
□ □ □ □ □

TUWALO
□ □ □ □ □

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OPERA KNACK
Answer: Pickups were introduced in the 1920s. Since then, people have been able to — KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

Trump faithful make no apologies in Newport

[Newport Beach, from B1] visive Trump era, no amount of fact-checking, presentations on Trump's many dishonest statements or concerns about his character seemed to hold sway.

For all the talk about Trump's rural base and the disaffected, working-class white voters who sent him to the White House, the president has long counted on a foundational support among very rich people, even in urban, coastal California, the heart of the so-called liberal resistance and a time-honored bogeyman for the right.

It is, after all, easier for politicians of all stripes to squeeze fundraising money from the upper echelons. And conservative rich people tend to like a government that keeps its paws off their wallets to the greatest extent possible.

Joe Biden has said he will raise taxes for people making more than \$400,000 — unnerving voters in places such as Newport Beach, where a cash-strapped Trump hosted a high-dollar fundraiser featuring the Beach Boys last month.

"Many wealthy people support Trump because he cut taxes and they benefited from that," said Fred Smoller, an associate professor of political science at Chapman University in Orange. "Many of them own a substantial amount of stock, and they've seen their portfolios soar."

"If you start throwing around the word 'socialist' enough, people in Newport Beach will call that a dangerous leveling," Smoller added. "They don't want to share.... They have a lot to lose, so they supported Trump."

Newport Beach — the home of John Wayne, whose yacht the Wild Goose has long been a fixture on Newport Bay, and the setting for the TV teen drama "The O.C." — is both whiter and richer than the country as a whole. It is 80% white, compared with 40% of Orange County and 60% of the United States. The typical value of a single-family home in Newport Beach, according to Zillow, is nearly \$2.9 million — 10 times the typical U.S. single-family home value of \$298,000.

Orange County, the birthplace of Richard Nixon and the longtime GOP citadel that Ronald Reagan called the place where "all the good Republicans go to die," has swung blue in recent years. As of Thursday, Biden was leading Trump 54% to 44% with a margin of more than 124,000 votes, according to the Orange County registrar of voters of fice.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton became the first Democratic presidential candidate to carry Orange County since the Great Depression, beating Trump by nearly 9 percentage points. But in Newport Beach, Trump beat Clinton by 14 percentage



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

RANDY DUARTE, who supports Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, stands amid his flags. His neighbor upstairs is a backer of President Trump.

points.

Outside the Newport Beach Civic Center Tuesday morning, Jennifer Rotellini, a 49-year-old real estate broker, said she cast a ballot for Trump largely because of the economy and the stock market. The child of Democrats, she said the party has moved too far left in recent years and that she is alarmed by what she called a growing reliance on government assistance such as welfare and food stamps.

"People get too comfortable," she said. "People need to get up and work hard."

Of Trump, she said, "We all cringe a little with how he speaks. I don't have to like the guy. But I like his policies. I love that he's not a politician. It's a breath of fresh air."

On Tuesday afternoon, Jesse Spence, who described his surname as "Spence, like Pence," stood outside the local GOP headquarters on Pacific Coast Highway in a red MAGA hat. He waved an enormous Trump flag and smiled at passing motorists — including a man in a black Jeep with a flag depicting Trump as a muscly, machine-gun toting Rambo.

"There's a lot of wealth in Newport Beach," the 26-year-old Spence said, "and Trump is very good with business."

Spence, a surfer who works at Trader Joe's, said he never believed pollsters who predicted a blowout win for Biden. He said the mainstream media have lied about Trump's character and not paid enough attention to the business dealings of Biden's son, Hunter, whom Trump's allies have sought to portray as corrupt.

Standing beside Spence, a woman named Amber said she lined up on Via Lido last month to wave to the presidential motorcade before Trump's fundraiser and that she was joined by "people of all races, colors, creeds, sex-

ual identities."

"It's not the way it's portrayed," the 40-something who declined to give her last name said of Trump's supporters. "We're all Americans." She added that Trump is "not racist," noting that his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla., accepted Jewish and Black members when other clubs in the affluent city did not.

Inside the GOP headquarters, people perused Trump merchandise, including MAGA masks and a tank top that said, "Ew, Liberals." Another shirt had the iconic skull of the Marvel character the Punisher with Trumpian blond hair and the words: "Punishing Liberals Since 2016."

Wearing a Hawaiian shirt and waving a huge red Trump flag outside, Erle Halliburton III — whose grandfather founded the oil and gas giant Halliburton — said he was confident that in the end a "major undercurrent of Trump support" would lead to a Trump victory. (By late Thursday, it

appeared the president would need successful lawsuits more than anything else).

Trump, he said, "looks at us, the American people, as his stockholders, and he's going to give to us what he said he was going to."

Halliburton, a 78-year-old Air Force veteran with homes in Newport Beach, Georgia and Tennessee, said that "once you live in a country that's somewhat socialist or hardcore socialist, you realize how valuable and wonderful this country is."

As the sun set in Newport Beach Tuesday, Randy Duarte sat on his front porch across the street from his polling place, the Marina Park Community Center. His street-level home featured a blue Biden flag and a sign depicting Trump as a poop emoji with the words "Dump the Turd November 3rd." The tenant above him — his neighbor for two decades — flew a red Trump flag.

Duarte's father came to the U.S. from Michoacán,

Mexico, as a 15-year-old with a first-grade education, raised seven children on a landscaper's salary and eventually became an American citizen. Duarte, a 54-year-old insurance agent, grew up in a mostly white Orange County neighborhood and said he let a lot of casual racism slide.

But in the Trump era? No longer. He's become more outspoken, hanging a flag for a presidential candidate for the first time ever this year. In recent days, passersby have screamed obscenities about Biden and President Obama and yelled at Duarte: "Go back to Mexico!"

On election night 2016, Duarte wept in his living room after Trump won because "I knew it was going to be hard on people that look like me. And, unfortunately, I was right."

After the polls closed on Tuesday, the streets of Newport Beach were ghostly quiet. Outdoor tables set up amid the COVID-19 pandemic were mostly deserted. Giant television screens were visible inside homes all along Balboa Boulevard; each showed an election night map.

As an uncertain Wednesday dawned, Trump flags gently swayed from the balconies of tightly clustered homes on exclusive Lido Isle, where narrow streets were lined with Land Rovers, Porsches and BMWs. A sign outside one home read: "No Biden — Socialism — Communism."

Just across the bridge connecting the man-made island to the rest of Newport Beach, a homeless Black woman sat on a bench overlooking the yachts in Newport Bay, her belongings in a bag beside her. She muttered to herself. Three young white men, one in a Bass Pro Shops shirt, laughed at her as they walked past. They repeatedly yelled an expletive at her.

On Wednesday, Spence kept a casual eye on Fox News and was "just chilling"

at home, trying not to stress. He had stayed up until about midnight, "praying and hoping something happens where we win."

"I'm putting it in God's hands," he said.

Rotellini kept busy with clients all day and was catching snippets about the tightening election on Fox whenever she could.

"I've got a knot in my stomach and it's not the good kind," she said in a text message. "Haven't really wrapped my head around anything yet."

Halliburton said he had enough faith in the country to not be anxious as the race tightened. He watched Fox on Wednesday. His wife flipped between that and CNN.

"If Biden is the one, we then need to support Biden over the next four years" and start planning for 2024, knowing Biden is likely too old to seek a second term, he said.

"I think this country's got enough of a solid footing that it's not the end of the world," he said.

Duarte and his wife spent election night watching MSNBC, checking Twitter, eating pizza and drinking three bottles of wine. There were no tears. By Thursday, as the election tilted more toward Biden, Duarte was getting giddy.

"Confident Joe will win!" he said in a text message. "Preparing 'You're Fired' memes for the big celebration!"

On Thursday afternoon, Veliz was watching Fox and constantly refreshing her electoral college maps on her phone while Coqueta sat next to her in a sweater. She worried about riots and violence as the election dragged on and planned to stock up on groceries and household essentials, just in case something bad happened.

"I'm very anxiously waiting to hear," she said. "I don't think there will be normalcy in the next few weeks or months."

Cafe attack is a hate crime, police say

By MATTHEW ORMSETH

In an incident Beverly Hills police called a hate crime, a group of men on Wednesday night vandalized a restaurant and assaulted its employees while making "pro-Armenia statements."

Between six and eight men believed to be in their 20s or 30s carried out the attack about 8:30 p.m., police said. Although authorities did not name the restaurant and said only that it was on the 300 block of South Beverly Drive, a man who identified himself as the son of the owners of Cafe Istanbul said his parents' restaurant had been the target. The cafe's windows were covered with plywood Thursday, and signs affixed to the wood read, "Armenians attacked this business."

The son, who asked that his name not be used because he feared for his and his family's safety, said masked men began destroying the restaurant's outdoor dining area Wednesday night, flinging chairs and shattering dishes. "They were chanting that they wanted Turks to die, that they were here to kill Turks," the son said.

No customers were dining at the restaurant at the time, and his parents were the only ones present, he said.

The men then entered the restaurant, throwing chairs at his parents, the son said. His father, who had turned to shield his mother, was struck in the back. The two fled through the back of the restaurant and took shelter in a nearby business. The men vandalized the interior of the restaurant and stole a few iPhones his parents had left behind, the son said.

For the last few months, the son said, anonymous callers to the restaurant have made death threats against the owners and vowed to "burn down your restaurant while you're eating breakfast with your family."

"This cannot be accepted," he said.

Beverly Hills detectives and a specialized technology unit in the Police Department are reviewing surveillance video in an effort to identify suspects, the police said in a statement.

In a statement, Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman called the incident an "unacceptable act of hate and violence."

OBITUARY NOTICES

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Los Angeles Times



ADAMS, Arthurlene Smith

August 11, 1934 - October 8, 2020

Arthurlene Smith Adams, Educator, Administrator, Mother & Grandmother was born & raised in Mooringsport, Louisiana. Described as elegant, sophisticated, strong & organized, she joined her parents, Gileatha Vera and Joe Frazier Clark in Los Angeles, CA in 1952, graduated from the University of Southern California (BS, MS) & married Paul Augustus Adams on August 29, 1959. They divorced 25 years later. An Assistant Principal with LAUSD, she retired in 1997. Recognized by LAUSD's Board of Education, the California State Senate & Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, she is survived by her children, Karen Adams Horton (Earle III) and Derren Clark Adams & five grandchildren: Sahara Sasha Horton, Earle C. Horton IV, Hannah Adams-Claros, Jaz Adams, and Liam Adams & other family & friends.

BASH, Rae Wilk

June 1928 - November 2020

Raised in Minnesota, Rae came to LA in her twenties, and later moved to Marina del Rey to be in her favorite place, by the ocean. She is survived by her daughters, Susan and Alex.

BERNS, Richard Howard

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks - Simi Valley 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainparks.org

CARR, Bonnie J.

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks - Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainparks.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

Life Tributes

IN MEMORIAM | OBITUARY NOTICE

Because of the current health emergency, we understand that some funeral services are being delayed until further notice.

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Los Angeles Times

LATimes.com



DIETZEL, Karl F.

January 17, 1918 - October 28, 2020

Karl F. Dietzel passed away unexpectedly October 28, 2020 at the age of 102. Born on January 17, 1918 in The Dalles, Oregon youngest son of Ferdinand and Eleanor (Hillgen) Dietzel.

In 1927, at the age of nine, his family moved from Oregon to Pasadena. Karl attended St. Phillips Catholic School through 8th grade and then went onto John Marshall Jr. High for two yrs. Then attended Pasadena Junior College (PCC) lower division for 2 yrs., and upper division Junior College for 2 yrs. where he graduated with an AA degree.

He served in the military (US ARMY Medical Administration Corps) from December 2, 1941 until February 1946. He applied for, was accepted by and graduated from Officers Candidate School (OCS). He served 2 yrs. in the European Theater of Operations (ETO). His unit, the 30th Medical Depot Company was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit plaque for superior performances. At the time of his discharge he had reached the rank of Captain. Karl was always a great patriot and supporter of our country and its Military.

In 1946, Karl was employed by Pacific Bell as a "Yellow Pages" salesman, worked for 30 years and retired in 1976. At retirement, he was the General Director Production Manager, in charge of all of Pacific Bell's telephone directories from Ventura to San Diego.

Karl married Barbara Wimmer on April 17, 1941 and they celebrated 50 yrs. of marriage in 1992. Barbara passed in 1997. Four years later (2001) Karl married artist Carmela Marchese who brought a renewed joy to his life. She passed way December 27, 2017.

Karl enjoyed cards, playing games, camping, photography, tennis, golf, traveling (he'd visited 60 countries), gardening, writing, his family and friends.

Karl is preceded in death by his two sisters Louise D. Allen and Eleanor D. Rogers and brother Laurence A. Dietzel. Karl is survived by 6 nieces and nephews and 25 grand nieces and nephews. He made an indelible positive impact on all their lives.

Our world is sadder without him but oh so much richer because of him.

At his request, a small private memorial will be held. Ashes scattered at sea.

In lieu of flowers, those so inclined may wish to consider making a donation in Karl F. Dietzel's memory to:

Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa)
335 East 145th Street
The Bronx, New York 10451



GUSS, Annelie Mullis

February 11, 1918 - September 27, 2020

Catherine "Annelie" Mullis Guss passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, September 27, 2020 in her home in Scottsdale, Arizona at the age of 82. Annette was born in Santa Monica, California, daughter of the late Donald Mullis and Mary Scoles Mullis. She was preceded in death by Michael Lee Guss and Curtis Lee Guss.

Annelie is survived by her sister Susan; son Greg, daughters Kristin and Tracy; seven grandchildren Katherine, Haley, Morgan, Mattson, Parker, Dominique and Nicholas; two great granddaughters Emerson and Eva and her beloved cat, Lily.

Annelie attended the University of California, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles where she was an active member of Pi Beta Phi. While attending college, Annelie met Curtis. The two wed on July 19, 1958. While raising their four children, Annelie also ran the family store Francis-Orr in Beverly Hills. Known to be one of the most talented engravers in Los Angeles, Annelie had a keen eye for fine design and craftsmanship. Along with her exquisite taste, she was known for making long lasting, impactful relationships. Annelie's vivacious and warm personality attracted friends and customers from all walks of life.

Annelie had an affinity for collecting her "treasures" (from Hermès scarves to fine china). She was extremely gifted at needlepoint and now her works of art serve as coveted heirlooms for family and friends to remember her by. She had a passion for animals of all kinds; she always had cats and she loved to watch horse racing both in-person in her younger years, and on TV later on. Annelie enjoyed travelling and exploring world, Australia being her favorite country to visit. She was passionate about learning from different cultures with a specific interest in art.

Annelie will be remembered as many things - "Mom", "Grammie", "Army", "Great", but much to her dismay never "Shrimcracker". She always knew a "shortcut" (which often took much longer than the regular route); she taught us how to take time and appreciate "the views". She always emphasized the importance of a thank you note; her sense of gratitude and appreciation for proper etiquette will not be forgotten. She always communicated with a sense of urgency; everything she had to relay was done so in a high-priority fashion. Most of all, Annelie will be remembered for her key catch phrase: "It is what it is." It is with this in mind that we mourn a great loss.

The family requests that any memorials be made to John Wayne Cancer Institute (saintjohnscancer.org/make-a-donation/).

Honor a life

go to latimes.com/placeobituary

Los Angeles Times



GARCIA, Bertha Flora

February 27, 1957 - October 31, 2020

Bertha passed peacefully, surrounded by her family, at home in Thousand Oaks, CA.

Bertha fought against cancer: Uterine carcinosarcoma. Loving mother of Monica Garcia Norlander and Eric Xavier Garcia, grandmother of Alana Garcia Norlander and 4 canine grandchildren. Beloved former spouse of Eric Florencio Garcia. Cherished sister of 20 siblings. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Foundation for Women's Cancer, www.foundationforwomenscancer.org/support-us/donate/

GOLDEN, Bruce

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks - Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainparks.org



HAWKINS, James Harold

September 22, 1931 - October 30, 2020

Loving husband to Joanne Tunney Hawkins for over 66 years, father to Katherine (Rene) Berger, Loretta Hawkins, James Hawkins, Jr., William (Joanna) Hawkins, grandfather to Sarah (Mike) Gonzalez, Pieter (Erin) Berger, Kate (Ryan) Madry, Anna (Joe) Ziemann, James C. Hawkins, Keegan, Addison, Weylin, and Imogen Hawkins; Great grandfather to nine with two babies on the way. What gave him the most joy in life was spending time with his large and loving family. He was always engaged, authentic and faith filled. He was a proud veteran of the Korean War and a true patriot. He was a hard worker from building and repairing radios during high school to his professional career building instrumentation for aircraft and spacecraft. He was always available for a conversation about the USC Trojans or the LA Dodgers, for a friendly game of cribbage or to give practical life advice. He will be missed. Donations can be made to the Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope, visionofhope.org; OC Hydrocephalus, sur4shea.com; Homeboy Industries, homeboyindustries.org; or the Cloistered Carmelite Nuns, Alhambra. There will be a Zoom memorial mass on Saturday, Nov. 7th at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Cabot and Sons Funeral Home for details.

MCCORMICK, Vincent D

Originally from Baltimore, MD, Vince moved to LA in his early 40s. He resided in the Long Beach and Seal Beach areas. He loved to be by the ocean, it was his favorite place. He is survived by family in MD. A private memorial at sea will be held in February 2021. Expressions of sympathy may be made in the form of donations to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

MAEDA, Arnold Tadao

July 17, 1926 - September 10, 2020

Arnold Tadao Maeda (94), born in Santa Monica to Toyoshige and Sasami Maeda, passed away peacefully on September 10, 2020 in Los Angeles.

During WWII at the age of 15, Arnold and his family were among 1000 persons living in the Santa Monica/Venice/Malibu areas who, based on their ancestry, were forced by Executive Order 9066 to assemble at the NW corner of Venice and Lincoln Blvds with only what they could carry. From there they were bussed to Manzanar Internment Camp, one of 12 camps across the US where 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were interned. Arnold graduated from Manzanar High School in 1944 as class president.

After the war, Arnold worked as a chick sexor, technical illustrator/instructor and insurance agent. He served as president of the WLA Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, was active in the WLA United Methodist Church, and was a charter member of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee. Throughout the years his interests included Aikido, bowling, golfing, fishing and trips to Las Vegas.

He is survived by his wife Kimiko Maeda; children, Susan (Cory) Nakashima and Richard Maeda; grandsons Jason and Spencer Nakashima; brother Brian (Lucia Brandt) Maeda; sister-in-law Natsuko Akiyama and other relatives.

A private family service was held with Rev. Gary Oba of WLAUMC officiating.



TUVERSON III, Arthur W

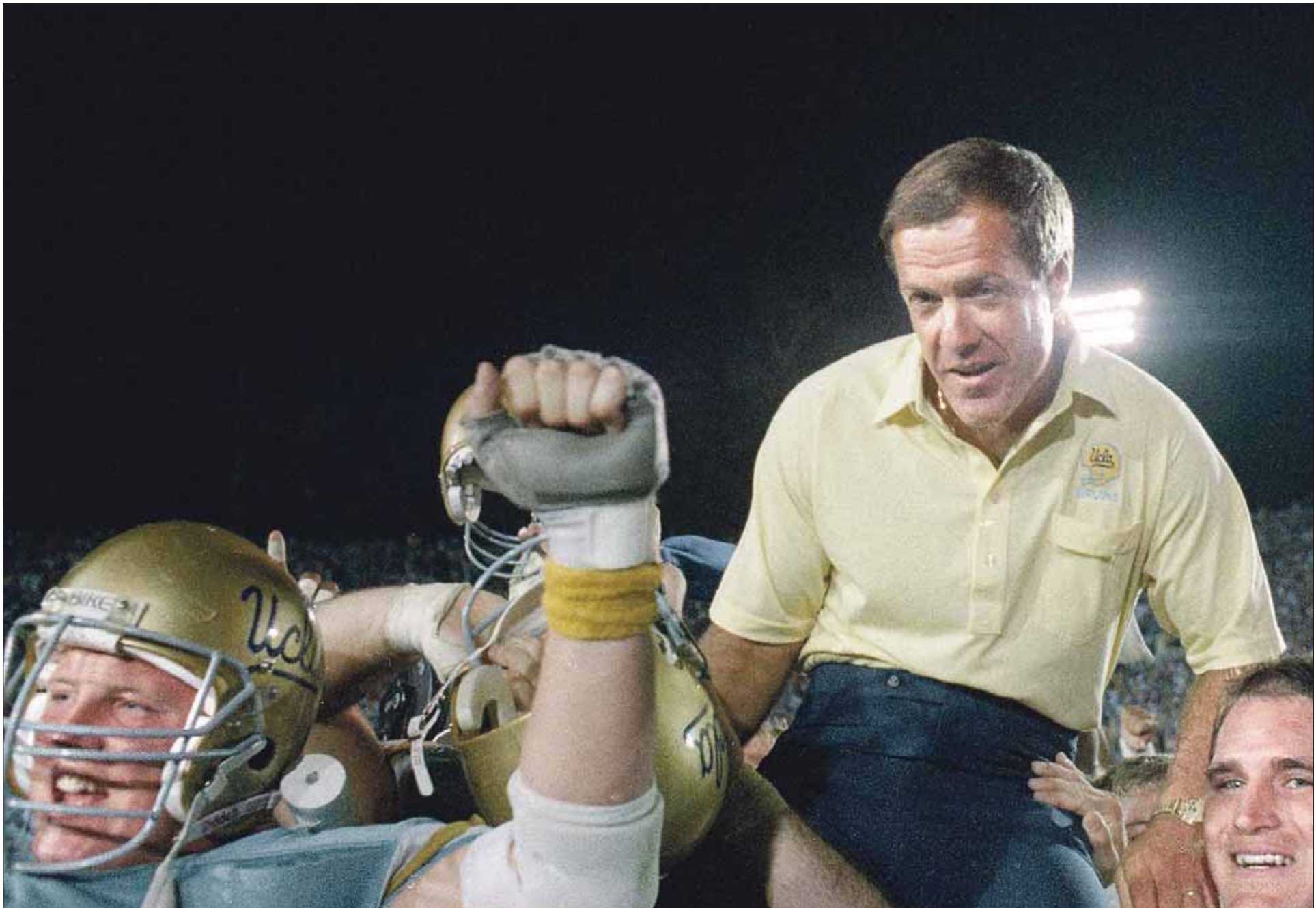
January 2, 1946 - September 3, 2020

Art passed peacefully, surrounded by his family at his home in Las Vegas. Art fought courageously against his cancer for 10+ years. Beloved husband of Cynthia, and esteemed brother of Kathy Hillyard and Kris McNamara. Loving father of Arthur, Andrea, Vanessa, Ryan, Matt and Anneliese, as well as friend of his in-laws and cherished grand-father to his 16 grandchildren. Art graduated from Arcadia High School in 1963. He continued on to Citrus Junior College, and then graduated from the University of Southern California. He then graduated from USC Law School in 1970. He quickly became a member of the prestigious ABOTA in 1978. Shortly after in 1980, he opened his law firm with brother-in-law Steve Hillyard, Tuverson & Hillyard, which grew quickly to 150+ employees. He was a highly respected and successful medical malpractice defense lawyer, he took 150+ cases to jury trials, winning 95%. As a graduate of USC, Art continued to be an active participant in both the university and their athletics programs, especially football. Above all, Art was a true family man with a playful wit about him. He had a keen sense of adventure, loved traveling and experiencing all life had to offer. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Prostate Cancer Foundation at www.pcf.org/tuverson.

SPORTS

SEASON OPENER :: UCLA VS. COLORADO

SATURDAY AT FOLSOM FIELD, BOULDER, COLO. | TV: ESPN2, 4 P.M. PST



COACH TERRY DONAHUE, being carried off the field in 1988 after his 100th victory at UCLA, led the Bruins to four Rose Bowl appearances, winning three times.

TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

Donahue won a school-record 151 games as UCLA football coach, a standard that his successors have found difficult to live up to

By BEN BOLCH

It will be a reminder of the fleeting highs followed by sustained frustration that has tormented UCLA football with every coaching hire in the quarter century since Terry Donahue's departure.

On one sideline will stand Karl Dorrell, a throwback to when the Bruins did most everything on the cheap and had the results to match.

On the other sideline will stand Chip Kelly, whose school-record \$23.3-million contract was supposed to trumpet a new era but has led only to lavish disappointment.

UCLA's season opener against Colorado on Saturday at Folsom Field in Boulder will symbolize the Bruins' failures in their search for the next Donahue, who logged a school-record 151 victories over 20 seasons and became the Pac-12's winningest coach with 98 conference victories.

The Bruins have churned through five coaches since Donahue left in 1995, posting losing records in 11 of 24 seasons, while appearing in (and losing) just one Rose Bowl. The program hasn't been consistently relevant nationally since appearing in (and winning) seven consecutive bowl games under Donahue, including three Rose Bowls.

Since then it's been a jumble of losing seasons and Las Vegas Bowls.

"It's not been the glory years, I'll tell you that," Rick Neuheisel, who went 21-29 in four seasons with the Bruins, said with a chuckle.

A former UCLA quarterback who led the Bruins to victory in the 1984 Rose Bowl under Donahue, Neuheisel returned to his alma mater after prosperous coaching stints at Colorado and Washington that included another Rose Bowl triumph with the Huskies.

His success with other Pac-12 schools and failure with the Bruins raises a question: Is there something about UCLA that makes it harder to win than it should be given a sturdy recruiting base, sterling academic reputation and shorts-in-January weather?

"Oh, I think it's too coincidental for it not to be a little systemic," Neuheisel said of UCLA's struggles.

Neuheisel prefaced what he was about to say next with a disclaimer because he didn't want it to sound like he was making excuses for his own shortcomings, which he felt were exacerbated by a lack of support from the administration.

"I just think that you have to make a decision as an athletic department within a university community as to what level of importance you're going to place on it,

and are you willing to do the things that those who deem the football program hugely important are willing to do?" Neuheisel said, ticking off Alabama, Clemson and Ohio State as examples of fiefdoms that have made football king.

As evidence of UCLA's differing expectations, Neuheisel retold the story of the school's marketing department buying a full-page newspaper ad upon his hiring in 2008. The ad declared that the football monopoly in Los Angeles was over, a not-so-subtle reference to USC's dominance under coach Pete Carroll.

Neuheisel added a never-before-told postscript, saying that Dan Guerrero, UCLA's athletic director at the time, apologized afterward, explaining that he didn't want to put too much pressure on a new coach.

"His point was, 'We're not a program that's going to win 10 [games in a season]. We're a program that if we can just get to win six or win seven, then we'll see where we can go from there,'" Neuheisel said. "And I remember walking out of that office going, 'We have a problem.'"

Guerrero, who hired every coach that has followed Donahue besides Bob Toledo, declined to comment for this story. If six- and seven-win seasons are the marker of success, then UCLA undeniably thrived under Guerrero before his retirement in June, logging five of the former and two of the latter.

The Bruins have enjoyed pockets of more satisfying success since Donahue retired from coaching. Toledo posted a school-record 20-game winning streak from 1997 to 1998, the Bruins one disputed Brad Melsby fumble in the pre-instant replay era away from playing in the first Bowl Championship Series title game.

Jim Mora looked like he might be the next great UCLA coach when he won 29 games in his first three seasons before suffering a precipitous decline leading to his dismissal in 2017. Even Dorrell, who declined to comment on his UCLA coaching tenure, went 10-2 in 2005 before regressing considerably over his final two seasons.

Sustaining success wasn't easy for Donahue either, at least not at first.

An assistant promoted to replace Dick Vermeil at age 31, Donahue won nine games in his first season but persevered through some early struggles, including four consecutive losses to USC. The backing of Charles E. Young, the Bruins' chancellor at the time, helped Donahue ignore the howls of those calling for his job.

"They were very patient with Terry Donahue, the administration, because he was such a great



Toledo



Dorrell



Neuheisel



Mora

Not much Bruin

UCLA has been to only one Rose Bowl and compiled losing records in 11 of 24 seasons since Terry Donahue left as the winningest coach in what would become the Pac-12 Conference. A look at the year-by-year records under each of his successors:

Bob Toledo		
Year	W-L	Bowl game
1996	5-6	None
1997	10-2	Cotton Bowl
1998	10-2	Rose Bowl
1999	4-7	None
2000	6-6	Sun Bowl
2001	7-4	None
2002	8-5	Las Vegas Bowl*

Karl Dorrell		
Year	W-L	Bowl game
2003	6-7	Silicon Valley Football Classic
2004	6-6	Las Vegas Bowl
2005	10-2	Sun Bowl
2006	7-6	Emerald Bowl
2007	6-7	Las Vegas Bowl*

Rick Neuheisel		
Year	W-L	Bowl game
2008	4-8	None
2009	7-6	EagleBank Bowl
2010	4-8	None
2011	6-8	Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl*

Jim Mora		
Year	W-L	Bowl game
2012	9-5	Holiday Bowl
2013	10-3	Sun Bowl
2014	10-3	Alamo Bowl
2015	8-5	Foster Farms Bowl
2016	4-8	None
2017	6-7	Cactus Bowl*

Chip Kelly		
Year	W-L	Bowl game
2018	3-9	None
2019	4-8	None

* — Did not coach in bowl game

representative of UCLA and he was able to put together a real good staff of teachers," said Gary Bernardi, a former longtime Bruins assistant coach who worked under Donahue, Toledo and Dorrell. "College football was a little bit more forgiving in the sense that there wasn't social media."

Toledo said he didn't enjoy similar support after Guerrero arrived in April 2002. The new athletic director fired Toledo eight months later despite Toledo's historic early success and the Bruins winning eight games with a freshman-heavy roster during his final season. A series of public ordeals, including a handicapped-parking placard scandal involving 19 players, contributed heavily to Toledo's dismissal.

Toledo said he was scapegoated by the scandal given that it also involved other UCLA teams out of public view.

"It wasn't just football but we took the hit — I took the hit," Toledo said, adding that Guerrero told him he wanted to bring in his own coaches.

Coaching longevity is increasingly rare across the Pac-12, Kyle Whittingham's 16-year run at Utah an outlier in a conference where teams have burned through an average of 5.3 coaches since Donahue left UCLA. Bernardi said the pressure to extend scholarship offers to high school prospects earlier than in the past has led to more recruiting misses that have resulted in higher coaching turnover.

UCLA and USC also no longer have a stranglehold on players in their own backyard. Teams that regularly appear in the College Football Playoff have become magnets for top Southern California high school players, quarterback Bryce Young heading for Alabama and quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei enrolling at Clemson, among others who have left the area.

"You remember the old Batman series where you'd see the villain and Batman would always get in a fight and they'd put 'Pow!' and 'Zap!' up on the screen, but the villain's lair was always tilted?" Neuheisel said. "It feels like that same tilt is toward these same schools that keep going to the play-off."

Donahue, now 76 and battling an undisclosed form of cancer, succeeded in part because he was a pioneer in national recruiting, enlisting Bill Rees to scour the country for talent while boosting the exposure his team already received from its nationally televised games. The Bruins snagged Jonathan Ogden from Washington, D.C., Kevin Williams from Texas and Eric Ball from Michigan.

Neuheisel's UCLA demise might have come partially as a result of the star he landed but didn't play. The coach refused to use quarterback Brett Hundley during his first college season in 2011 because Hundley was coming off a knee injury that had forced him to

miss training camp. Hundley went on to spark Mora's early success that included two 10-win seasons.

"If I have a regret, it's that I never got to really coach Hundley," Neuheisel said. "He was my recruit, he was a guy that I knew was going to be a great player; I should have probably played him even though he wouldn't have played until the middle of the season."

Kelly's recruiting has been average by Pac-12 standards, most of his best players having been brought in by Mora. The lack of talent has been reflected in a 7-17 record that represents the worst two-year start of any UCLA coach since James J. Cline went 2-10-3 from 1923 to 1924. Cline did not make it to a third season.

Kelly's losses have come despite the usual-suspect UCLA excuses being off the table. The Bruins are no longer a chintzy operation known for handing out below-market contracts, mostly to coaches such as Dorrell and Neuheisel who had ties to the school. A novice head coach at the time of his UCLA hiring, Dorrell acknowledged after his debut that he didn't know where to stand on the sideline.

UCLA has flexed new financial might in recent years, giving Kelly a record sum, constructing the \$65-million Wasserman Football Center and spending \$5.4 million on nontravel football meals during one fiscal year.

Kelly acknowledged the school had fully supported his bid to lead the Bruins to their first winning record since 2015.

"They've done everything," Kelly said. "You look at the support that we get, they built a brand-new building just before we got here, we're on the cutting edge when it comes to the scientific stuff we do in the weight room to nutrition, so there's a lot of things that the school has done and I'm proud to be a part of this school."

Kelly touted the academic standards that some of his predecessors lamented, calling them a positive. UCLA also recently created a master's degree program in the school of education that has enrolled three graduate transfers.

But something's as wonky as the nearly empty Rose Bowl of recent seasons when considering where the Bruins were under Donahue and where they have been under his successors. Their best hope might come not in Kelly but new athletic director Martin Jarmond, who has stressed the importance of a thriving football program.

"Hopefully he can raise the kind of funds and get the kind of runway afforded him from those above him to build this as it should be built," Neuheisel said of Jarmond, "because UCLA's a special place and everybody will come look and there's no reason it can't be a launching pad for one of the big boys."

"But you have to make the determination you want to be one."

Licensed to thrill, Smith finds calling

The rookie from Huntington Beach gets his shot at Truck Series points title.

By MIKE DiGIOVANNA

The ink on Zane Smith's driver's license was barely dry when the Huntington Beach native got his first speeding ticket as a 16-year-old in his adopted hometown of Mooresville, N.C., five summers ago.

"I think it was the second day after he passed his driver's test," Mike Smith, Zane's father, recalled this week. "He was going 95 mph in a 40-mph zone."

Young Zane was doing what came naturally. From the time he began racing BMX bikes at age 3, go-karts from ages 6 to 12, entry-level stock cars as a teenager to the 180-mph NASCAR trucks he now drives, Smith, 21, has been built for speed.

In fact, the day he was slapped with that moving violation, he was returning from a race in which he hit top speeds of more than 100 mph in a super late-model stock car.

Five years later, Smith, now a rising star on the NASCAR circuit, will attempt to become the second rookie driver to win the Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series points championship when he runs his No. 21 Chevrolet Silverado in Friday night's Lucas Oil 150 at Phoenix Raceway in Avondale, Ariz.

"This whole thing is incredible — it's been an unreal ride," said Mike Smith, 54, who runs a race shop and an off-road racing team in Huntington Beach. "He's worked super hard to get to where he is, and he's so determined. When he was a little kid and they lined up at the door for

recess, all the teachers said he'd step on people to get there first. Everything was a competition for him."

Zane Smith takes that same killer instinct onto the track, where he has gone toe-to-toe with more experienced rivals in NASCAR's Truck Series — he's one of four finalists for the points title with Grant Enfinger, 35; Brett Moffitt, 28; and Sheldon Creed, 23 — and stared down some of the biggest names in the sport.

In the May 26 North Carolina Education Lottery 200 truck race at Charlotte Motor Speedway, Smith came from last place to make memorable passes of NASCAR Cup stars Chase Elliott and Kyle Busch before finishing third behind the two.

"I'm the baby in the field, and they definitely race you harder because of it," Smith said by telephone from North Carolina. "But I tend not to take too much crap. I normally don't get mad or even. I typically get ahead."

Mike Smith isn't sure how or why Zane developed into such a good driver, but he has a shop filled with more than 200 trophies as proof of Zane's gift.

"Is it God-given ability? I don't know," Mike Smith said. "Why was Michael Jordan so good? Zane has great hand-eye coordination, good reaction times, the ability to process information quickly. And his determination to win has been big."

That was evident to Roy Dehban, who runs ProAm Racing in Riverside, and Tim Casey, owner of Brea-based La Paz Products, who helped fund Smith's racing career with annual six-figure investments since Smith was 5 years old.

Smith attended Spring View Middle School in Huntington Beach through eighth grade, but by the time he was 14, he was spending so much



JASON MINTO Associated Press

ZANE SMITH, 21, celebrates after his second career victory, at Dover International Speedway. Smith is a finalist for the Trucks Series points championship.

time racing in the North Carolina area that he moved there, living first in a family motor home and then a small house his parents bought in Maiden, N.C.

"When you're 14 years old, it's pretty damn cool," Smith said of trailer park living. "There was a pond there, so you'd go fishing whenever you wanted. It could have been a tent and I would have been cool with it."

His mother, Debbie, usually stayed with Smith in the house, but not always.

Smith, who was racing Legend and super late-model cars as a 15- and 16-year-old, learned to be self-sufficient, arranging transportation to and from tracks, preparing meals, sticking to his workout schedule and filling free time.

"He stayed there weeks at a time by himself," Mike Smith said. "It was crazy. There are stories we probably can't even tell."

Smith gained national acclaim in 2015 when he won the

super late-model championship at the World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing at New Smyrna Speedway in Florida.

He spent 2016 to 2018 racing in the Automobile Racing Club of America Series and K&N Pro Series, both NASCAR feeder circuits. He drove in eight NASCAR Xfinity Series races, mostly at short tracks, in 2019.

Last November, Smith was signed by GMS Racing to run the full 2020 NASCAR truck series, earning a salary and percentage of his winnings.

NASCAR trucks run a little slower than cup cars, with maximum speeds of 180-200 mph, and can be unwieldy at times.

"They're a handful in dirty air — when you're in traffic," Smith said. "It's similar to how a plane or a boat handles. When you're in someone else's wake, it makes for a rough ride. When you're in your own wake, it handles a lot better."

"And there are a lot of wakes out there. It's better to be in front, except everyone has that same mind-set, and it gets very aggressive at times."

Smith bought a 2,600-square-foot house in Mooresville, N.C., known as "Race City USA" because so many NASCAR drivers and team members live there, in 2019. He has a girlfriend and two dogs. He was only 20 when the 2020 season began but felt pressure to perform.

"I had a feeling that I had to do something special here," Smith said, "or I'm going to have to pack up ... and go home."

Smith won two of 23 races, had six top-five finishes and was named rookie of the year. After his passes of Busch and Elliott at Charlotte, "it was insane how much exposure I got on social media," Smith said. "I finished third but it was like I won."

He notched his first career win at Michigan International Speedway on Aug. 7. His sec-

Rain could be USC's latest foil

There's a 60% chance of precipitation when it opens season against Arizona State.

By RYAN KARTJE

They'd prepared for just about everything. A quiet, empty Coliseum. An unusual, early start time. Constant testing and social distancing and endless safety protocols.

But at the start of a shortened USC football season defined by the unexpected, coach Clay Helton did not anticipate the rain.

Add that to the list of extraordinary circumstances USC could face when it finally debuts on Saturday at 9 a.m. against Arizona State. Los Angeles hasn't recorded a measurable rainfall in nearly six months, but with a better than 60% chance of precipitation, rain seems likely to fall at some point during the game.

So this week, Helton and his team were forced to adjust again, this time adding wet footballs to their preparation.

By this point, USC

should be used to adjusting on the fly. Since spring practice was shut down in March by the novel coronavirus, change and the looming uncertainty that comes with it have been pretty much the only constants across college football.

That rocky path to Pac-12 football may finally smooth out Saturday, when the conference's seven-game season kicks off more than two months after it was originally scheduled. But even with daily testing in place and games being played, the threat of a season suddenly being derailed will likely linger until Dec. 19, when the conference title is scheduled to be decided.

The league was reminded of that razor-thin margin for error this week, when on Wednesday, a California player tested positive for COVID-19. By Thursday afternoon, the Saturday game between Cal and Washington had been canceled because contact tracing left Cal without the minimum number of scholarship players necessary to play, according to Pac-12 safety protocols.

USC has been largely successful in limiting spread of

the virus since welcoming athletes back to campus in June. Football workouts were paused for two weeks between late August and early September when a rash of cases tied to an off-campus party infiltrated the football and water polo programs. But with 4,877 tests conducted at USC as of last Friday, only 21 positives had been reported since testing began in mid-June.

Helton praised his players' efforts to stick to protocols, but after months of good fortune in that regard, he said he has constantly warned his players not to get too comfortable.

"It's something where we have to try to be as consistent as humanly possible," Helton said. "You have to try as hard as you can to be able to put yourself in safe situations. A lot of it comes down to decision-making, to be honest with you. Making the great decisions of wearing a mask, staying socially distanced. Don't put yourself in an atmosphere to get it, which not only hurts you individually, but hurts your team. That's going to be a part of this thing."

USC can play through a bit of precipitation. But a co-

ronavirus outbreak — and the cancellation that could come with it — would almost assuredly end the Trojans' hopes of contention for the College Football Playoff before they begin.

"We're at the Thursday of Week 1, saying prayers every night," Helton said. "Stay healthy, stay safe, and we continue to move forward."

Etc.

USC's expected starters should have a mostly clean bill of health heading into the season. Running backs Markese Stepp (turf toe) and Vavae Malepeai (hamstring) are expected to play Saturday, as are edge rusher Drake Jackson (hamstring) and linebacker Kana'i Mauga (hamstring). ... USC will release its initial depth chart Friday, while also announcing its captains for the 2020 season. ... Six USC players were named to the All-Pac-12 preseason first team: Jackson, quarterback Kedon Slovis, wide receivers Tyler Vaughns and Amon-ra St. Brown, offensive lineman Alijah Vera-Tucker and defensive back Talanoa Hufanga. Punter Ben Griffiths was named to the second team.



PAUL SANCYA Associated Press

'We're at the Thursday of Week 1, saying prayers every night. Stay healthy, stay safe, and we continue to move forward.'

— CLAY HELTON, USC coach

SEASON OPENER



20 USC vs. Arizona State

AT THE COLISEUM
Saturday, 9 a.m.
TV: Channel 11

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Raiders lose draft pick for violations

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Las Vegas Raiders and coach **Jon Gruden** were fined a total \$650,000 and docked a sixth-round draft pick for repeated violations of the NFL's COVID-19 protocols.

A person familiar with the punishment said Thursday the team was fined \$500,000, Gruden was docked \$150,000 and the draft pick was stripped because of how the team handled **Trent Brown's** positive coronavirus test last month. Yahoo first reported the punishments.

Brown was placed back on the COVID-19 list Thursday for a second time this season because he still has complications from the illness after a positive test last month.

The NFL and the union were investigating the San Francisco 49ers and receiver **Kendrick Bourne** for possible violations of the league's coronavirus proto-

cols. ... Detroit Lions coach **Matt Patricia** wouldn't discuss quarterback **Matthew Stafford's** status for Sunday's game after Stafford was put on the reserve/COVID-19 list Wednesday. The Lions also put safety **Jalen Elliott** on the reserve/COVID-19 list. ... The Kansas City Chiefs, Chicago Bears and Houston Texans closed their facilities after a Chiefs staff member and a player each from the Bears and Texans tested positive for COVID-19.

The season opener scheduled for Saturday between California and Washington was canceled following a request from the Golden Bears due to a positive coronavirus test for one of their players.

The game between Air Force and Army scheduled for Saturday was postponed due to an increase in COVID-19 cases at the Air Force Academy and the surrounding community. ... Games between Tulsa-Navy

and North Texas-Louisiana Tech scheduled for Saturday were postponed because of positive COVID-19 cases and contact tracing. ... The Nevada-New Mexico game scheduled for Nov. 14 has been relocated to Sam Boyd Stadium in Las Vegas because of "current state health protocols and guidelines in New Mexico," the Mountain West Conference said in a statement. ... Connecticut has suspended all men's basketball activities after a player tested positive for the coronavirus.

ETC.

Betts, Trout win Silver Slugger

Mookie Betts and **Mike Trout** were given the Silver Slugger award as the top hitters at their positions in their respective leagues.

Trout is the first player to win the award eight times before his age-29 season.

— JORGE CASTILLO

Galaxy midfielder **Sebastian Lletget** was added to the national team roster for friendlies with Wales and Panama, replacing **Josh Sargent**, who was withdrawn when his club team, Werder Bremen, refused to release him because of COVID-19 quarantine regulations in Germany.

— KEVIN BAXTER

The Ducks signed right wing **Jacob Perreault**, the 27th pick in this year's draft, to a three-year entry-level contract.

Carson Strong threw for 411 yards and three touchdowns as host Nevada beat Utah State 34-9.

In another Mountain West game, Colorado State defeated visiting Wyoming 34-24.

ESPN announced it was eliminating about 500 jobs worldwide, including about 300 through layoffs.

The cuts were largely because of the impact of the pandemic on its business.

ond win came two weeks later at Dover International Speedway. Smith's voice cracked with emotion in a post-race interview after his Michigan win.

"It hit home, all the people who have invested in me and everything my family has sacrificed," Smith said. "I don't come from a wealthy family by any means. My mom is a middle-school lunch lady and my dad runs an off-road race team."

"It's really, really hard to make it in this sport legitimately off talent, and when you start getting an idea that you might actually make it, it's pretty unreal."

Smith's 2020 performance earned him another deal with GMS to race NASCAR trucks in 2021. His ultimate goal is to race NASCAR Cup cars on Sundays.

"Not only to be there, but to be with a good team and competing for wins and championships," Smith said. "The problem with our sport is there's 40 drivers, and normally when you're in there, you're there for a long time. So you have to get in at the right time and you have to be good."

Much bigger money, fame and prestige would come with a NASCAR Cup spot for Smith, who said he's had to "scratch and claw and work my ass off since I was 7 years old to be where I'm at."

But at least that speeding ticket didn't set him back. In a judicial action unique to North Carolina, traffic violators are allowed to plead guilty to a first offense and request a "prayer for judgment" from the judge. If granted, the fine is waived.

"I told Zane, if you walk into a California court and tell them you want to do a prayer for judgment and ask the Lord to forgive you, they're going to look at you funny," Mike Smith said. "But that is actually how he got out of it."

Martin convicted of triple murder

Former Tampa Bay prospect used baseball bat to kill father, two others in Corona.

By NATHAN FENNO

Former Tampa Bay Rays prospect Brandon Martin was convicted of murdering three men with a baseball bat at his family's Corona home.

After four hours of deliberations, a Riverside County Superior Court jury found Martin guilty of first-degree murder Wednesday in the Sept. 17, 2015, deaths of his father, Michael Martin, uncle Ricky Andersen and alarm installer Barry Swanson.

In addition to three murder counts, the jury convicted Martin of evading arrest, resisting arrest, stealing an auto and injuring a police dog.

The jury is scheduled to start hearing testimony Monday in the sentencing phase. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

The Rays picked Martin from Corona Santiago High with the 38th overall selection in the 2011 draft. The short-stop received an \$860,000 signing bonus and drew on-field comparisons to New York Yankees legend Derek Jeter.

But Martin's behavior grew erratic in the years after being drafted, according to court records and interviews with friends, including punching his father in the face and putting his mother in a headlock.

The Rays released Martin in early 2015. He hadn't played in a game in more than a year.

Two days before the murders, Martin was placed on a mental-health hold in Riverside after he admitted to Corona police officers that he choked his mother and threatened her with scissors.

The family was having a security system installed on the day of the murders to protect them.

The murder weapon, a black baseball bat, was engraved with Martin's name and left at the scene.

When authorities apprehended Martin the next day, police records allege he body-slammed a police dog and fought officers.

Martin, 27, has been jailed without bail in Riverside since his arrest.

TENNIS

Thursday's results from ATP World Tour Paris Masters (seedings in parentheses):

SINGLES

Round of 16
Diego Schwartzman (6), Argentina, def. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, 6-1, 6-1.
Milos Raonic (10), Canada, def. Marcos Giron, United States, 7-6 (1), 6-2.
Daniil Medvedev (3), Russia, def. Alex de Minaur (16), Australia, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.
Ugo Humbert, France, def. Marin Cilic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3.

Pablo Carrero Busta (9), Spain, def. Norbert Gombos, Slovakia, 7-5, 6-2.
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 6-1, 7-6 (3).
Alexander Zverev (4), Germany, def. Adrian Panarino, France, 7-6 (11), 6-7 (7), 6-4.

Stan Wawrinka (12), Switzerland, vs. Andrey Rublev (5), Russia, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3.

DOUBLES

Round of 16
Michael Venus, New Zealand, and John Peers (7), Australia, def. Frank Skrago, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek, United States, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
Nikola Pietrangeli, Croatia, and Wesley Koolhof (6), Netherlands, def. Casper Ruud, Norway, and Taylor Fritz, United States, 6-4, 7-6 (1).
Hubert Hurkacz, Poland, and Felix Auger-Aliassime, Canada, def. Robert Farah, Colombia, and Horacio Zeballos (1), Argentina, 6-3, 3-6, 10-6.
Bruno Soares, Brazil, and Mate Pavic (2), Croatia, def. Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen, Belgium, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Nicolas Pietrangeli, France, and Pierre-Hugues Herbert (5), France, def. Matwe Middelkoop, Netherlands, and Marcello Areal-Gonzalez, El Salvador, 6-3, 7-6 (4).
Lukasz Kubot, Poland, and Marcelo Melo (4), Brazil, def. Jamie Murray and Neal Skupski, Britain, 6-2, 1-6, 10-6.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

West
Nevada 34, Utah State 9
Rockies
Colorado State 34, Wyoming 24

TODAY'S GAMES (All times Pacific)

Southland
San Jose State at San Diego State, 6 p.m.
South
Miami at North Carolina State, 4:30 p.m.
Rockies
Brigham Young at Boise State, 6:45 p.m.

NFL

Flores near the end zone for Hall of Fame

Long overlooked, former Raiders coach seems a sure thing for Canton's class of 2021.

SAM FARMER
ON THE NFL

Tom Flores tried being a junior high teacher, but the students were too out of control.

So he coached the Raiders instead. "I'll never do that again," the two-time Super Bowl winning coach said of his stint as a substitute teacher. "Too many hormones going on on that campus. Holy Toledo."

It was all part of his winding path that at long last has brought Flores to the doorstep of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, where he almost certainly will be enshrined next summer.

Flores, 83, is the lone coach named a finalist for the class of 2021. He was selected in August by the Hall's coach committee and is in a good position to be approved by the required 80% of voters when the 48-member panel convenes at the Super Bowl.

"What am I going to do, pat myself on the back? No," Flores said. "The pat on the back is when you see something that you developed and it worked. Like the end of a Super Bowl game when you're ahead with two minutes left and they crack the champagne. What a great feeling that is."

It isn't just Raiders who applauded the Hall of Fame news. Opponents did too.

"I'm just so glad he's going in," said former New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms, now a CBS analyst. "It has to mean a lot to him. He just kind of gets washed away in the history of the game."

"Everybody else who wins two Super Bowls, 'Oh my god, they've won two. Put him in the Hall of Fame.'

But for some reason, his name never came up."

Flores quarterbacked the Raiders during their inaugural 1960 season, beating out 10 others at training camp to do so. And when illness sidelined him for the 1962 season, he worked as a sportswriter, writing columns about the team for the Oakland Tribune.

A strong work ethic was never an issue for Flores, who grew up in the tiny Central California town of Sanger and was the son of a sharecropper who arrived from Mexico at age 12.

"My dad was a quiet man, like I am," he said. "My mom and dad wanted us to grow up speaking English, so that's all we spoke at our home. The only time we spoke Spanish is when we went to see my grandparents, but all but one of them died by the time I was 5."

Flores would go on to become an unassuming pioneer, the first Latino head coach in the NFL, Super Bowl winner, and later with the Seattle Seahawks, team president and general manager.

"Every time he and I cross paths, he takes the time to talk with me," said Washington Football Team coach Ron Rivera, who has a profound appreciation for the trail Flores blazed. "This goes back to from when I was playing until now. I've always admired him, who he is, and what he's accomplished."

After a football career at Fresno City College and College — now University — of the Pacific, Flores was ready to give up on football to become a teacher. But in 1960, an opportunity came along with the Oakland Raiders of the fledgling American Football League, and he decided to give it one last try.

"It was never an issue of, 'Oh no, what happens if this doesn't make it?'" he said. "I figured I'd just move on and do something else."



Associated Press

COACH TOM FLORES gets carried away by the Los Angeles Raiders after their dominating 38-9 victory over Washington in Super Bowl XVIII in Tampa.

In the offseason, in fact, he did. He sold fireworks.

"I'd mainly sell to the Boy Scouts, the Kiwanis, the Boys and Girls Clubs," he said. "There's like a 1,000% markup on fireworks. You'd buy \$100 worth and it would cost them a dollar."

Like those pyrotechnics, Flores' playing career almost went up in smoke in 1962 when he contracted tuberculosis.

"I was in isolation for 10 days," he said. "Doctors didn't know what I had. Finally, they discovered it was a form of tuberculosis and that I wasn't infectious. We had no insurance in those days and twins who were a year old. But I wasn't worried about surviving."

When the Raiders needed a new coach in 1963, owner Wayne Valley asked Flores what he knew about a certain assistant coach of the San Diego Chargers, a young up-and-comer named Al Davis.

"I remember hearing

about Al when I was at College of the Pacific and he was at USC," Flores said. "Some of the things I heard were not very good. When Wayne Valley asked me about him, I said, 'What I've heard is he's a different guy, a tough guy.' I think Wayne liked that. That was the kind of guy he wanted, I guess."

Davis would not only coach the Raiders but would maneuver his way into becoming their controlling owner.

Flores coached wide receivers for the Raiders from 1972 to 1978, winning a Super Bowl as part of John Madden's staff in 1976, and taking over as head coach three years later.

Coaching the Raiders first in Oakland then in Los Angeles, Flores led his teams to Super Bowl victories at the end of the 1980 and 1983 seasons.

But his first Super Bowl ring came as backup quarterback for Kansas City

in 1969.

That was Flores on the Chiefs sideline, shrouded in a full-length coat, making sure Hank Stram didn't get tangled in the phone lines. Flores makes a cameo in those famous NFL Films shots of a miked Stram bouncing down the sideline, urging his players to "matriculate" the ball down the field.

For much of his career, Flores operated in the shadows of larger-than-life personalities. Few in sports attracted a brighter spotlight than Davis, who never let Flores feel too secure in his job — even during that championship 1980 season.

"There were rumors Al was going to fire me," Flores said. "Al might have considered doing it. It was only my second year as a head coach. I had some serious meetings with him, then he kind of backed off and left me alone for a while to figure it out."

The pressures of the job were not lost on his players.

"A lot of people want to give all the credit to Al," said Hall of Fame cornerback Mike Haynes, a defensive fixture on the 1983 Raiders. "But a lot of it was really Tom. How many coaches could really get along great with Al, somebody calling you at 2 o'clock in the morning? But it really didn't affect Tom's attitude. He knew how to manage his relationship with the players, knew how to manage his relationship with Mr. Davis, and I really think that's why we won so many games."

Perhaps most impressive in their out-of-nowhere rise were the 1980 Raiders. They lost starting quarterback Dan Pastorini to injury and replaced him with Jim Plunkett, got off to a 2-3 start, yet wound up the first wild-card team to win a Super Bowl.

"Little by little it kept getting better," Flores said. "Our defense started to peak. By the time we got to the playoffs, we were on a roll, offense and defense. We were peaking at the right time."

Among the legendary players on that Raiders defense were John Matuzsak, Matt Millen, Lester Hayes and a future Hall of Famer in linebacker Ted Hendricks.

"Hendricks was a dominating player," Flores recalled. "He would be my pick as the best overall defensive player I coached. He would make a tackle for a sack, he'd block a punt, block a field goal, get an interception, knock down passes. And that's all in one game."

For Flores, an indelible memory from that Super Bowl came in the waning moments, when he was approached by Raiders offensive line coach Sam Boghosian, who had a similar humble background, having grown up in Fresno.

"Not bad for a couple of grape pickers, huh?" Boghosian said. "We're world champions." Not bad at all.



TONY AVELAR Associated Press

GREEN BAY running back Tyler Ervin is tackled by 49ers free safety Jimmie Ward in the first half, when the Packers jumped out to a 21-3 lead.

Rodgers, Packers clean up against the depleted 49ers

Quarterback throws for four touchdowns in a rout of team that had dominated them.

GREEN BAY 34
SAN FRANCISCO 17

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA CLARA — Aaron Rodgers threw for 305 yards and four touchdowns and the Green Bay Packers overwhelmed the undermanned San Francisco 49ers 34-17 on Thursday night.

Rodgers connected on deep shots to Davante Adams and Marquez Valdes-Scantling, and a short toss to Marcedes Lewis in the first half to get the Packers (6-2) out to a 21-3 lead over the Niners (4-5).

It was quite a reversal from the two meetings last season when San Francisco outscored Green Bay by a combined 50-0 in the first halves on the way to lopsided wins in the regular season and NFC title game.

"It was a different game," Rodgers said. "They're obviously depleted on both sides of the ball. They've had probably one of the worst injury

Packers 34, 49ers 17
Green Bay 7 14 10 3-34
San Francisco 3 0 0 14-17

First Quarter
GB—D.Adams 36 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 11:42.
SF—FG Gould 22, :47.

Second Quarter
GB—Lewis 1 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 7:01.
GB—Valdes-Scantling 52 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 1:53.

Third Quarter
GB—Valdes-Scantling 1 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 7:17.
GB—FG Crosby 19, 2:01.

Fourth Quarter
GB—FG Crosby 53, 6:15.
SF—James 41 pass from Mullens (Gould kick), 5:00.
SF—McKinnon 1 run (Gould kick), :04.

TEAM STATISTICS	GB	SF
First Downs	21	17
Total Net Yards	405	337
Rushes-yards	31-111	17-55
Passing	294	282
Punt Returns	0-0	1-13
Kickoff Returns	1-5	6-135
Interceptions Ret.	1-17	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	25-31-0	22-35-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-11	1-9
Punts	3-51.3	4-54.8
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-45	4-33
Time of Possession	36:30	23:30

Individual Leaders
RUSHING: Green Bay, Jones 15-58, Ervin 8-24, Taylor 1-9, Williams 2-8, Rodgers 1-7, Lovett 3-6, Boyle 1-(minus 1), San Francisco, McKinnon 12-52, Hasty 4-3, Mullens 1-0.

PASSING: Green Bay, Rodgers 25-31-0-305, San Francisco, Mullens 22-35-1-291.

RECEIVING: Green Bay, D.Adams 10-173, Jones 5-21, Ervin 4-48, Valdes-Scantling 2-53, Tonyan 1-5, Shepherd 1-3, Lewis 1-1, Sternberger 1-1, San Francisco, James 9-184, Dwelley 3-52, McKinnon 3-16, Caccraft 2-13, Hasty 2-10, T.Taylor 1-9, Juszczyk 1-4, Reed 1-3.

FIELD GOALS MISSED: None.

years I've seen in a long time, so it's not the same football team we saw twice last year, but they still have possibly the best middle linebacker in the game and a lot of

pride. We went out and executed the way we expected to."

The Niners were missing almost all their key pieces from that title game because of injuries and a positive coronavirus test for receiver Kendrick Bourne that also sidelined three of his teammates for "high risk" contacts.

That left San Francisco without quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (ankle), All-Pro tight end George Kittle (foot), running back Raheem Mostert (ankle), receivers Deebo Samuel (hamstring) and Brandon Aiyuk (COVID-19 list), left tackle Trent Williams (COVID-19 list) and key defenders Nick Bosa (knee), Dee Ford (back) and Richard Sherman (calf).

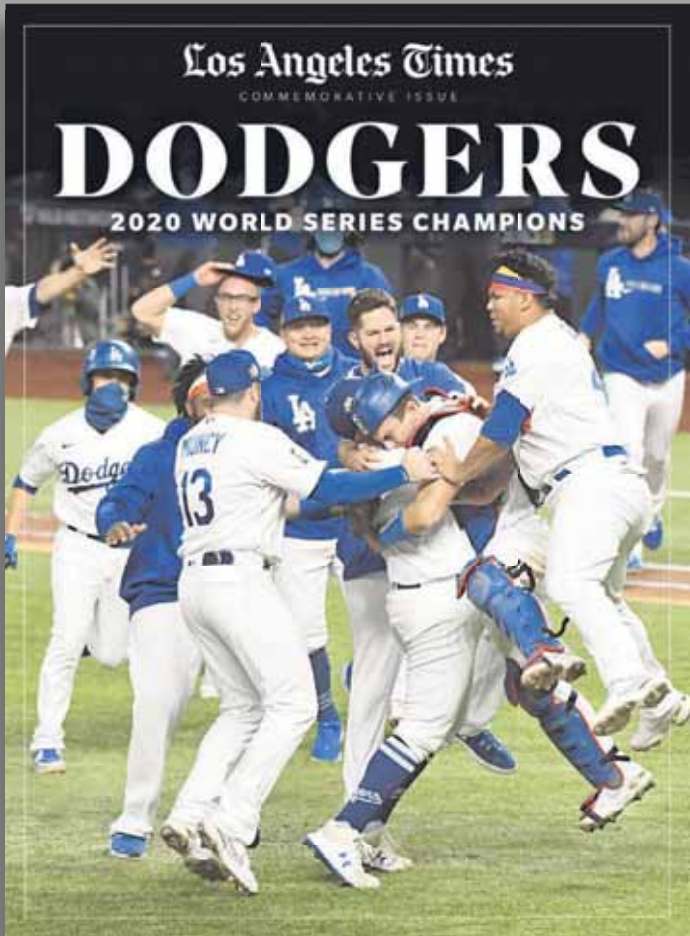
"We knew it was going to be a challenge," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "We knew at the start of the week it would be a challenge. Losing those three guys yesterday would be a bigger challenge. I still thought we could have a game."

Packers star running back Aaron Jones returned from a calf injury and made an immediate impact, touching the ball on the first four plays to gain 37 yards.

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MIDSEASON REPORT

Chargers seek to calm waters after big falls

By **JEFF MILLER**

Bryan Bulaga is in his 10th NFL season, one of which ended with a Super Bowl championship.

Therefore, the veteran right tackle is experienced and accomplished enough to properly capture what has happened to the 2020 Chargers.

“We show some great things,” Bulaga said. “And then, you know, things kind of go haywire.”

Haywire. That’s not a bad way to describe a situation in which a team has squandered leads of at least 16 points in four consecutive games.

The Chargers have set a new NFL standard for failing to close out victories, dropping three of those games — one in the fourth quarter, one in overtime and one on the final play.

When this happens in baseball, a relief pitcher usually loses his job. As for the Chargers, they did trade away defensive back Desmond King this week before the deadline. But that was unrelated to the blown leads.

With a little more than two months remaining, the 2-5 Chargers enter Sunday desperate to quiet the chaos.

A look at where they stand heading into their final nine games:

What’s working?

Throughout training camp and into Week 2, the Chargers’ plan was to not play Justin Herbert, possibly all season. That plan now seems extraordinarily suspect.

The rookie quarterback has done nothing more than perform well enough to look like a franchise cornerstone who could be leading the Chargers into the 2030s and beyond.

After veteran Tyrod Taylor was knocked out of the lineup just before kickoff in Week 2, Herbert grabbed the starting job as if it should have belonged to him all along.

He is fourth in the NFL with an average of 303.3 passing yards per game and eighth in passer rating at 104.5. For the month of October, he led the league in

passer rating and touchdown pass percentage.

Herbert already has set or matched numerous franchise and league records for rookies, each touchdown pass seeming to arrive in the context of history.

He has connected for scores with four wide receivers, three tight ends and a fullback. Three of those targets — Tyron Johnson, Donald Parham Jr. and Gabe Nabers — never had caught a touchdown pass in the NFL.

Herbert also led the Chargers in rushing in one game and has scored two touchdowns on the ground. That’s the same number as Clyde Edwards-Helaire, the NFL’s third-leading rusher.

Despite all the production, Herbert is 1-5, not unlike a baseball pitcher with a sub-2.00 ERA and a dreadful record. He has stood tall and shined, while, all around him, a failure storm has swirled.

What’s not?

On defense, the Chargers repeatedly have gone from dominating to doubled over. After halftime, it’s as if they’ve collapsed under the weight of too much prosperity.

The Chargers have outscored their opponents 101-72 in the first half but been outscored 113-78 thereafter.

They have surrendered several big plays and at least as many long drives in a cacophony of bad execution and poor communication. When the Chargers make mistakes, each seems to blow up spectacularly.

An example: a main reason they gave up the deciding touchdown on the final play Sunday in Denver was because one of their defensive ends lined up on the wrong side of the formation.

“Our issue is maybe you have 10 guys executing and one guy might not execute a certain play,” defensive coordinator Gus Bradley said. “And it’s not one particular guy. Maybe guys are taking turns a little bit. That’s what we’ve got to work on.”

The Chargers will be without safety Derwin James all season and have had linebacker Drue Tranquill for only five snaps.

Cornerback Chris Harris



JACK DEMPSEY Associated Press

ROOKIE Justin Herbert (10) is fourth in the NFL with 303.3 yards passing per game but is just 1-5.

STANDINGS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE										
West	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA				
Seattle	6	1	0	.857	240	199				
Arizona	5	2	0	.714	203	146				
RAMS	5	3	0	.625	193	152				
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444	225	207				
North	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA				
Green Bay	6	2	0	.750	253	204				
Chicago	5	3	0	.625	161	166				
Detroit	3	4	0	.429	177	206				
Minnesota	2	5	0	.286	183	214				
South	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA				
Tampa Bay	6	2	0	.750	247	165				
New Orleans	5	2	0	.714	206	197				
Carolina	3	5	0	.375	179	193				
Atlanta	2	6	0	.250	209	224				
East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA				
Philadelphia	3	4	1	.438	186	205				
Washington	2	5	0	.286	133	165				
Dallas	2	6	0	.250	185	266				
N.Y. Giants	1	7	0	.125	145	199				

AMERICAN CONFERENCE										
West	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA				
Kansas City	7	1	0	.875	253	152				
Las Vegas	4	3	0	.571	187	203				
Denver	3	4	0	.429	147	183				
CHARGERS	2	5	0	.286	179	185				
North	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA				
Pittsburgh	7	0	0	1.000	211	142				
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	203	132				
Cleveland	5	3	0	.625	206	237				
Cincinnati	2	5	1	.313	194	214				
South	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA				
Indianapolis	5	2	0	.714	198	136				
Tennessee	5	2	0	.714	208	184				
Houston	1	6	0	.143	166	217				
Jacksonville	1	6	0	.143	154	220				
East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA				
Buffalo	6	2	0	.750	198	199				
Miami	4	3	0	.571	188	130				
New England	2	5	0	.286	136	167				
N.Y. Jets	0	8	0	.000	94	238				

Thursday's game
Green Bay 34, San Francisco 17
Sunday's schedule
Las Vegas at CHARGERS, 1:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Indianapolis, 10 a.m.
Carolina at Kansas City, 10
Chicago at Tennessee, 10
Denver at Atlanta, 10
Detroit at Minnesota, 10
Houston at Jacksonville, 10
New York Giants at Washington, 10
Seattle at Buffalo, 10
Miami at Arizona, 1:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Dallas, 1:25
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 5:20
Monday's game
New England at New York Jets, 5:15 p.m.
Byes: RAMS, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Philadelphia.

Jr. is on injured reserve and defensive end Joey Bosa has battled four injuries.

Edge rusher Melvin Ingram has missed three games and so has defensive tackle Justin Jones.

Beyond that, only the defense’s collective performance has been ailing, especially in the second half, where the Chargers’ leads have gone to die.

“Just a couple Xs and O’s we gotta clean up,” Ingram said. “Make the little plays ... if we do that, we’re going to be

all right.”

What’s next?

The Chargers will take another shot at ending their AFC West losing streak Sunday against Las Vegas at SoFi Stadium. This franchise hasn’t won a division game since the regular-season finale in 2018.

An eighth straight loss came last weekend against the Broncos, matching the NFL’s current longest streak. Detroit also has dropped eight division games in a row.

After traveling to Miami to play on Nov. 15, the Chargers return home to face the New York Jets, the league’s only winless team.

They then travel to Buffalo in Week 12 before returning home for consecutive games against New England and Atlanta, two teams that today look quite beatable.

What about the division?

The Kansas City Chiefs lost at home to Las Vegas in Week 5, a result that still sounds like a typo. Patrick Mahomes and the rest remain very much in charge of the division, sitting at 7-1.

The Raiders are next at 4-3 and Sunday at SoFi Stadium will play only their second AFC West game.

The Broncos (3-4) and Chargers (2-5) are looking up at a long road back into contention.

Etc.

Herbert appeared on the Chargers’ official injury report Thursday because of a right shoulder problem but was a full participant in practice. Still, his situation is notable. ... Bosa did not practice and remains in concussion protocol, putting in question his status for Sunday. ... Running back Troymaine Pope also is still in concussion protocol. ... Bulaga (back), right guard Trai Turner (groin) and defensive end Isaac Rochell (neck) all were limited.

NBA players OK Dec. 22 return date

Union’s approval translates into saving NBA more than \$500 million in revenue.

By **DAN WOIKE**

It was less than a month ago that LeBron James stood in the center of a largely empty arena, the Larry O’Brien trophy cradled in his right arm.

“I can’t believe you cheated on me for the last four years,” James said. “What is wrong with you?”

The honeymoon phase for the rekindled relationship could be ending sooner than James and the Lakers expected.

They’ve got work to get back to.

The NBPA, the union that represents the league’s players, approved the NBA’s plan to begin a 72-game season Dec. 22, saving more than \$500 million in revenue for a league that’s had its finances upended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The agreement came after a vote of player representatives.

“3.5 weeks. Get ready bros,” Nets guard Spencer Dinwiddie tweeted.

The plan returns the league closer to its typical schedule. The league and the NBPA need to still agree on COVID-19 protocols for the upcoming season, which will almost entirely be played in home markets (the same quarantine rules that pushed the Toronto Blue Jays to Buffalo, N.Y., will likely force the Raptors to relocate).

“The Board of Player Representatives of the National

Basketball Players Association (NBPA) has tentatively approved a start date of December 22, 2020 for the 2020-2021 NBA season and a 72-game schedule,” the NBPA said in a statement Thursday night. “Additional details remain to be negotiated and the NBPA is confident that the parties will reach agreement on these remaining issues relevant to the upcoming season.”

The Lakers’ final moments in the bubble, which center JaVale McGee captured for a video blog he updated throughout the restart, will be less than two months old by the time the team reports for training camp at the start of December.

There were pockets of NBA players who wanted a longer offseason — even NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said a December start seemed unlikely — but the financial concerns of an even further abbreviated season were too great to extend the offseason.

Besides, some league officials would say, eight teams haven’t played since March and more than half the league was done playing by Sept. 1.

“Good to see the light right now,” Hawks guard Trae Young, one of the players who hasn’t played since March, tweeted.

The NBA and the NBPA still need to agree on some financial considerations, including the percentages of salaries that will end up in an escrow account.

The league also still needs to announce the offseason calendar with dates for options to be picked up, for trades to be consummated and for free agency to begin.

GOLF

Snedeker drives into Houston lead with 65

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Brandt Snedeker found a lot of fairways and greens at difficult Memorial Park, top-ranked Dustin Johnson returned from the coronavirus, and fans were back too Thursday at the Houston Open.

Snedeker shot a five-under-par 65 in the afternoon to take a two-stroke lead in the last event before the Masters. He’s one of 37 players in the field this week set to play at Augusta National.

“Drove it great,” Snedeker said. “Around this golf course you have to be in the fairway, otherwise it’s going to be a long day for you.”

The tournament — at public Memorial Park for the first time since 1963 — is limiting ticket sales to 2,000 a day.

It’s the first domestic PGA Tour event to have fans since the Players Championship in

March.

“I think that’s a big reason why I played well today,” Snedeker said. “I love having fans out here. I kind of feed off their energy.”

Johnson had a 72 — bogeying five of the last seven holes on his front nine — in his return after a positive coronavirus test knocked him out of the CJ Cup and the Zozo Championship.

Jason Day was tied for second at 67 with Scottie Scheffler, Harold Varner III, Carlos Ortiz, Michael Thompson and Cameron Davis.

Brooks Koepka, playing for the second time since a two-month layoff, had a 72, as did playing partner Jordan Spieth.

Koepka served as a consultant on course architect Tom Doak’s renovation.

“I think every time Jordan hit it in the water, he told me that was my fault,” Koepka said.

RESULTS

First-round results Thursday from the PGA Tour Viant Houston Open at Memorial Park Golf Course, Houston (par 72; suspended for darkness, nine players DNF):

Brandt Snedeker	32-33-65	-5
Cameron Davis	31-36-67	-3
Michael Thompson	32-35-67	-3
Scottie Scheffler	32-35-67	-3
Harold Varner III	31-36-67	-3
Carlos Ortiz	32-35-67	-3
Jason Day	30-37-67	-3
Adam Long	33-35-68	-2
Kevin Streelman	35-33-68	-2
Sam Burns	35-33-68	-2
Talor Gooch	34-34-68	-2
Sepp Straka	32-36-68	-2
Scott Piercy	34-34-68	-2
Adriano Panatta	31-37-68	-2
Greg Chalmers	35-33-68	-2
Matt Jones	35-34-69	-1
Russell Henley	35-34-69	-1
Denny McCarthy	34-35-69	-1
Shane Lowry	35-34-69	-1
Tony Finau	35-34-69	-1
Corey Connors	34-35-69	-1
Patton Kizzire	33-36-69	-1
Pat Perez	34-35-69	-1
Mark Hubbard	34-35-69	-1
Graeme McDowell	35-34-69	-1
Russell Knox	34-35-69	-1
Scott Brown	34-35-69	-1
Dylan Frittelli	36-34-70	E
Hideki Matsuyama	36-34-70	E
Fabian Gomez	35-35-70	E
J.T. Poston	33-37-70	E
Martin Trnava	36-34-70	E
Satoshi Kodaira	36-34-70	E
Aaron Wise	35-35-70	E
Scott Harrington	33-37-70	E
Keegan Bradley	36-34-70	E
Viktor Hovland	36-34-70	E
Mackenzie Hughes	32-38-70	E
Francesco Molinari	33-37-70	E
Kevin Chappell	35-35-70	E
Andrew Landry	33-37-70	E
Cameron Tringale	33-37-70	E
Charley Hoffman	35-36-71	+1
Si Woo Kim	34-37-71	+1
Hudson Swafford	33-38-71	+1
Austin Cook	36-35-71	+1
Padraig Harrington	34-37-71	+1
Sean O'Hair	34-37-71	+1
James Hahn	35-36-71	+1
Maverick McNealy	36-35-71	+1
Erik Barnes	34-37-71	+1
Doc Redman	32-39-71	+1
Brian Harman	35-36-71	+1
Erik van Rooyen	36-35-71	+1
Luke List	33-38-71	+1
Tom Lewis	36-35-71	+1
Tyrell Hatton	37-34-71	+1
Branden Grace	35-36-71	+1
Henrik Stenson	37-35-72	+2
Lanto Griffin	34-38-72	+2
Brooks Koepka	36-36-72	+2

Stewart Cink	37-35-72	+2
Martin Laird	35-37-72	+2
Charl Schwartzel	34-38-72	+2
Robby Shelton	35-37-72	+2
Kelly Kraft	35-37-72	+2
Dustin Johnson	34-38-72	+2
C.T. Pan	34-38-72	+2
David Hearn	34-39-73	+3
Jhonattan Vegas	35-38-73	+3
Lucas Glover	34-39-73	+3
Jordan Spieth	33-40-73	+3
Nate Lashley	36-37-73	+3
Jason Dufner	37-36-73	+3
Tom Hoge	34-39-73	+3
Vaughn Taylor	33-40-73	+3
John Huh	32-37-73	+3
Jamie Lovemark	34-39-73	+3
Chris Kirk	37-36-73	+3
Brian Stuard	37-36-73	+3
Zach Johnson	34-39-73	+3
Danny Lee	34-40-74	+4
Ollie Schniederjans	35-39-74	+4
Sergio Garcia	37-37-74	+4
Luke Donald	35-39-74	+4
Scott Stallings	36-38-74	+4
Camillo Villegas	35-39-74	+4
Max Homa	36-38-74	+4
Sungjae Im	35-39-74	+4
Brice Garnett	36-38-74	+4
Kevin Stadler	35-39-74	+4
Troy Merritt	37-37-74	+4
Bo Van Pelt	36-38-74	+4
Henrik Norlander	40-35-75	+5
Beau Hossler	37-38-75	+5
Kramer Hickok	35-40-75	+5
Andrew Putnam	39-36-75	+5
Michael Kim	34-41-75	+5
Ted Potter Jr.	38-37-75	+5
Wyndham Clark	36-39-75	+5
Kevin Tway	35-40-75	+5
Adam Schenk	35-40-75	+5
Emiliano Grillo	37-38-75	+5
Xinliu Zhang	35-41-76	+6
Bo Hoag	35-41-76	+6
Sung Kang	36-40-76	+6
Pati Mickelson	39-37-76	+6
Ryan Armour	38-38-76	+6
Joey Kroun	38-37-77	+7
Graham DeLaet	37-39-76	+6
Hunter Mahan	39-38-77	+7
Lee Westwood	38-39-77	+7
D.A. Points	36-41-77	+7
Jimmy Walker	38-37-77	+7
Danny Willett	40-37-77	+7
Tyler Duncan	38-39-77	+7
Matthew NeSmith	35-42-77	+7
Keith Mitchell	42-36-78	+9
Sam Ryder	36-43-79	+9
Alex Noren	38-39-79	+9
Bronson Burgoon	39-40-79	+9
Grayson Murray	39-46-85	+15

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

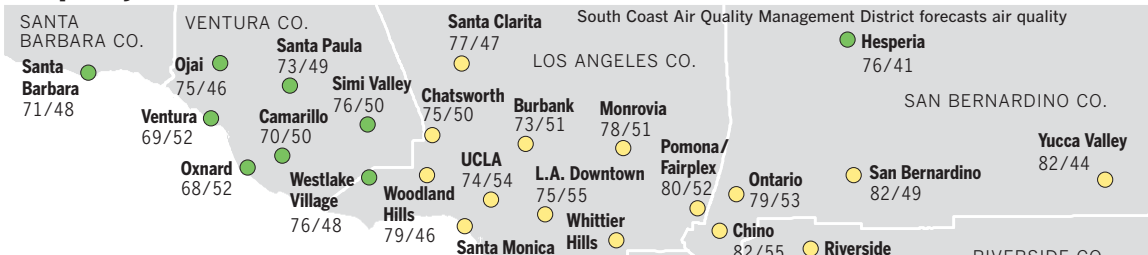
Much cooler: A strong front will move in with much cooler air and locally gusty winds Friday through the weekend. Most places will get the most significant rain since spring, starting late Friday night and continuing at times Saturday. Snow levels will lower to near 5,000 feet. A second wave of the storm system will swing through on Sunday with additional showers.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	75 55		75 49		72 54		60 18		91 56	
	Cooler		Cooler		Cooler		Partly sunny; cooler		Partly sunny	
Saturday	Rain	60/49	A few showers	55/45	Rain	59/49	Windy	35/15	A shower	64/47
Sunday	A few showers	60/42	Showers	56/39	A few showers	59/44	Snow, 1-3"	32/7	A shower	62/45
Monday	Sunny; cool	63/44	Sunny; cool	62/41	Sunny; cool	61/43	Sun; cold	37/8	Sunny; cool	69/46
Tuesday	Mostly sunny	65/46	Mostly sunny	64/43	Mostly sunny	63/46	Mostly sunny	43/13	Mostly sunny	70/48

Air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind southwest 5-10 knots, becoming west at 15-25 knots in the afternoon. Wind waves 2-4 feet; swell south and west 3-6 feet.

Surf zone: The risk for strong rip currents is high for Santa Barbara, Ventura, L.A., Orange and San Diego counties.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	3-6'	19 sec	W	64
Ventura	3-6'	19 sec	W	65
Los Angeles	3-6'	18 sec	W	64
Orange	3-5'	16 sec	SSW	63
San Diego	3-5'	18 sec	SSW	71

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	11:27a	5.0 Hi	7:56p	0.6 Lo
	-----	Hi	-----	Lo
Sat.	12:46p	4.7 Hi	9:10p	0.6 Lo
	-----	Hi	-----	Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 45	Phoenix, 45
Los Angeles, 45	San Francisco, 60

California cities

City	Thursday			Today			Saturday		
	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	
Anaheim	xx	xx	xx	77	56		61	51	
Avalon/Catalina	85	55	--	67	52		56	50	
Bakersfield	73	52	--	70	49		55	46	
Barstow	86	52	--	85	50		58	43	
Big Bear Lake	68	32	--	60	18		35	15	
Bishop	80	37	--	75	34		51	25	
Burbank	93	59	--	73	51		56	45	
Camarillo	96	55	--	70	50		60	47	
Chatsworth	95	63	--	75	50		55	44	
China	100	52	--	82	55		60	46	
Dana Point	83	55	--	72	57		60	53	
Death Valley	91	58	--	95	58		68	48	
Del Mar	72	56	--	71	59		62	57	
Escondido	96	57	--	79	51		58	50	
Eureka	62	51	.01	53	42		53	42	
Fallbrook	96	69	--	76	51		58	48	
Fresno	76	51	--	64	46		58	45	
Fullerton	95	57	--	75	57		61	50	
Hemet	92	48	--	82	47		55	43	
Hesperia	82	51	--	76	41		51	38	
Huntington Beach	82	52	--	71	58		61	55	
Idyllwild	80	57	--	68	35		41	36	
Irvine	87	55	--	75	57		61	53	
L.A. D'ntown/USC	91	59	--	75	55		60	49	

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

Los Angeles Co.		Orange Co.		Ventura Co.	
Sun	6:18a/4:56p	6:16a/4:55p	6:22a/4:59p		
Moon	9:45p/11:42a	9:44p/11:40a	9:49p/11:47a		



Almanac

Thursday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	91/59	95/57	91/67
Normal high/low	75/55	75/52	72/50
High/low a year ago	80/53	80/49	69/5
Record high/date	94/2012	96/2012	98/1976
Record low/date	41/1881	43/2011	40/1956

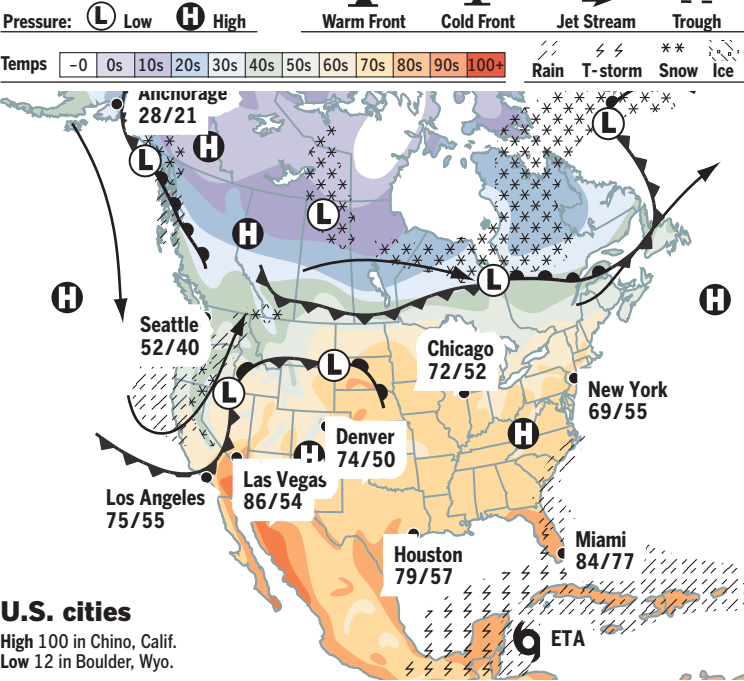
Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 4 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	0.00	Trace	0.03
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	0.80	1.01	0.99
Humidity (high/low)	74/14	74/15	89/25

City	Thursday			Today			Saturday		
	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	
L.A. Int'l. Airport	88	58	--	70	56		60	51	
Laguna Beach	78	53	--	72	57		60	55	
Lancaster	82	38	--	79	44		53	39	
Long Beach	95	58	--	71	57		62	51	
Mammoth Lakes	66	19	--	57	17		37	15	
Mission Viejo	91	64	--	76	55		59	52	
Monrovia	92	65	--	78	51		56	46	
Monterey	86	50	--	60	46		57	47	
Mt. Wilson	xx	xx	xx	65	38		43	32	
Needles	92	65	--	91	60		68	46	
Newport Beach	74	57	--	71	48		61	56	
Northridge	96	63	--	79	46		55	43	
Oakland	80	53	--	64	48		61	49	
Oceanside	88	45	--	76	56		63	45	
Ojai	97	47	--	75	46		59	41	
Ontario	94	54	--	79	53		56	47	
Palm Springs	98	72	--	91	56		64	47	
Pasadena	96	63	--	76	51		56	45	
Paso Robles	83	39	--	65	41		61	39	
Pomona/Fairplex	xx	xx	xx	80	52		57	46	
Redding	83	45	--	60	40		62	37	
Riverside	95	56	--	80	48		55	39	
Sacramento	81	46	--	65	40		61	40	
San Bernardino	93	58	--	82	49		55	45	

City	Thursday			Today			Saturday		
	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	
San Diego	89	59	--	72	61		65	58	
San Francisco	80	55	--	61	48		60	49	
San Gabriel	xx	xx	xx	77	52		57	46	
San Jose	79	53	--	61	45		60	45	
San Luis Obispo	92	59	--	67	47		59	48	
Santa Ana	87	59	--	74	57		63	53	
Santa Barbara	89	47	--	71	48		61	45	
Santa Clarita	88	60	--	77	47		55	42	
Santa Monica Pier	87	57	--	72	54		59	49	
Santa Paula	98	54	--	73	49		60	44	
Santa Rosa	85	43	--	61	36		64	37	
Simi Valley	93	75	--	76	50		56	42	
Tahoe Valley	71	25	--	48	17		37	17	
Temecula	92	54	--	79	49		54	45	
Thousand Oaks	94	75	--	73	50		58	45	
Torrance	88	62	--	72	57		61	52	
UCLA	92	62	--	74	54		60	49	
Van Nuys	96	62	--	75	49		59	47	
Ventura	91	67	--	69	52		59	48	
Whittier Hills	96	49	--	76	56		61	50	
Woodland Hills	97	57	--	79	46		56	42	
Wrightwood	68	49	--	64	36		38	30	
Yorba Linda	96	63	--	78	54		58	50	
Yosemite Valley	78	48	--	60	27		44	30	

Today in North America

Stormy West: Rain and mountain snow will spread south from Oregon into Northern and Central California as a storm generates strong wind over the Southwest. Showers will dampen parts of Florida. Unseasonably warm and dry weather will cover most other parts of the country.



U.S. cities

High 100 in Chino, Calif.
Low 12 in Boulder, Wyo.

City	Thursday			Today			City	Thursday			Today		
	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky		Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	64	45	--	67	42	Su	Seattle	55	54	.48	52	40	Pc
Albuquerque	75	45	--	71	49	Pc	Tampa	87	67	--	86	73	Pc
Anchorage	21	6	--	28	21	Pc	Tucson	94	57	--	92	70	Pc
Aspen	65	30	--	63	36	Pc	Tulsa	76	51	--	74	52	Su
Atlanta	71	47	--	73	59	Pc	Washington, D.C.	69	47	--	74	49	Su
Austin	82	47	--	80	50	Pc	Wichita	73	46	--	70	54	Su
Baltimore	71	38	--	72	45	Su	World						
Boise	76	44	--	69	38	Cy	Acapulco	87	71	--	87	74	Pc
Boston	70	46	--	66	49	Pc	Amsterdam	55	39	.12	53	37	Pc
Buffalo	67	56	--	65	49	Su	Athens	70	61	--	67	58	Pc
Burlington, Vt.	67	53	--	65	48	Hx	Bangkok	90	77	--	90	78	Su
Charleston, S.C.	78	56	--	78	64	Pc	Barcelona	64	52	--	67	61	W
Charlotte	72	36	--	74	54	Pc	Berlin	52	36	--	54	41	Pc
Chicago	71	57	--	72	52	Su	Cabo San Lucas	91	69	--	90	69	Su
Cincinnati	66	49	--	69	44	Su	Cairo	77	67	--	75	63	Pc
Cleveland	70	53	--	71	48	Su	Dubai	89	73	--	92	72	Hx
Columbia, S.C.	77	39	--	77	59	Pc	Dublin	49	41	.01	52	43	Pc
Columbus	68	43	--	70	42	Su	Havana	82	73	.14	82	71	Sh
Dallas/Ft.Worth	78	58	--	76	54	Su	Ho Chi Minh City	93	77	--	90	78	R
Denver	77	46	--	74	50	Pc	Hong Kong	82	70	--	82	73	Hx
Detroit	66	52	--	68	48	Su	Istanbul	63	52	.09	62	53	W
El Paso	85	56	--	81	55	Cy	Jerusalem	64	59	.19	64	54	Pc
Eugene	61	54	.11	52	34	R	Johannesburg	74	57	.30	79	59	Hx
Fort Myers	85	67	Tr	84	73	Tr	Kuala Lumpur	89	76	.25	88	75	Ts
Hartford	71	44	--	72	45	Pc	Lima	69	61	--	67	61	Pc
Honolulu	86	75	.05	86	75	Pc	London	50	35	.02	53	41	Fg
Houston	81	57	--	79	57	Su	Madrid	55	46	.71	68	53	R
Indianapolis	69	50	--	70	45	Su	Mecca	96	72	--	92	71	Hx
Jacksonville, Fla.	77	62	.14	78	68	Pc	Mexico City	72	41	--	72	46	Pc
Kansas City	75	52	--	72	54	Su	Milan	63	51	--	62	44	Pc
Knoxville	67	38	--	72	46	Pc	Montreal	70	30	--	62	49	Cy
Las Vegas	86	60	--	86	54	Pc	Moscow	46	45	.23	45	39	Pc
Louisville	69	49	--	72	46	Su	Mumbai	95	79	--	95	76	Pc
Medford	73	43	--	54	40	R	New Delhi	84	59	--	87	57	Hx
Memphis	72	52	--	75	57	Su	Paris	54	39	--	54	45	Pc
Miami	85	75	.68	84	77	Ts	Prague	48	36	--	48	31	Pc
Milwaukee	71	54	--	68	54	Pc	Rome	68	57	--	68	49	Pc
Minneapolis	66	45	--	72	58	Su	Seoul	61	34	.01	62	53	Pc
Minnneapolis	71	44	--	74	49	Su	Singapore	90	77	--	87	77	Ts
New Orleans	75	53	--	76	67	Su	Taipei City	78	68	.10	86	79	W
New York	67	52	--	69	55	Su	Tokyo	66	54	--	65	58	Hx
Norfolk	75	50	--	69	58	Pc	Vancouver	52	50	.10	49	37	Su
Oklahoma City	74	46	--	72	51	Su	Vienna	54	45	--	50	34	Su
Omaha	76	35	--	74	56	Su	Key: Su sunny; Pc partly cloudy; Cy cloudy; Fg foggy; Prcp precipitation; Dr drizzle; Hx hazy; Sf showers; Ts thunderstorms; R rain; Sn snow; Sf snow flurries; I ice; Tr rain; W rain/wind; W snow showers. Notes: National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx".						
Orlando	84	66	.02	84	71	Pc							
Philadelphia	69	43	--	72	49	Su							
Phoenix	99	62	--	94	70	Pc							
Pittsburgh	69	40	--	70	42	Su							
Portland, Ore.	61	59	.46	53	37	R							
Providence	69	43	--	70	46	Pc							
Raleigh/Durham	74	40	--	73	56	Pc							
Reno	74	34	--	56	30	W							
Richmond	72	41	--	71	51	Pc							
St. Louis	75	52	--	75	51	Su							
Salt Lake City	74	44	--	75	53	Pc							

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CALENDAR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020 :: LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

ESPN thrown for loss as 500 jobs go

Disney-owned outlet blames pandemic; Lionsgate will slash 15% of film staff.

By Stephen Battaglio

ESPN is slashing 500 jobs as cost pressures from the COVID-19 pandemic are accelerating the sports media company's move into streaming.

The cuts, which include 300 layoffs, were revealed Thursday in a memo from Jimmy Pitaro, president of the Walt Disney Co.-owned unit. In addition to the layoffs, another 200 open positions will be eliminated, the company said. ESPN has more than 5,000 employees worldwide.

"Prior to the pandemic, we had been deeply engaged in strategizing how best to position ESPN for future success amidst tremendous disruption in how fans consume sports," Pitaro said in the memo viewed by The Times. "The pandemic's significant impact on our business clearly accelerated those forward-looking discussions."

The company, based in Bristol, Conn., did not specify which areas would be affected, but people familiar with the plans who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly said the cuts would be across different departments.

The memo did not specify when the layoffs would take effect but said employees "will be learning about their future" over the next few weeks.

ESPN lost a massive [See ESPN, E2]

Oddballs might just grow on you

A kidney donation might make for odd comedy, but CBS' "B Positive" just needs time to mature. **E3**

Haunting sound of 'November'

Phillip Youmans' film transforms a Claudia Rankine play into a "choreopoem" on white privilege. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
What's on TV **E6**



A PREGNANT young woman (Tamara Lawrance) is at the mercy of her in-laws in "Kindred." Review, E2.

FAMILY FRIGHTS

IFC Midnight

For the creators of gaslighting thriller 'Kindred,' the challenges of having kids are truly terrifying

By Sonaiya Kelley

With the gaslighting thriller "Kindred," writer-director Joe Marcantonio paints a portrait of an expectant mother manipulated to the brink of insanity by her late boyfriend's family.

Although the film centers on the experiences of a pregnant woman, the writing was heavily informed by the experiences of the two male writers.

While working on the first draft of the script with co-writer Jason McColgan, Marcantonio and his wife were preparing for the arrival of their second child. Although they had planned for a home birth, the baby was more than two weeks late. "The doctors kept trying to force us to go into the hospital to have a C-section," he recalled. "We woke up the day before they were going to force us to come in and my wife went into labor right then and there. We basically delivered my daughter ourselves on the bedroom floor. So that was quite a traumatic thing to go through."

At the same time, McColgan was having the opposite problem. "His wife was having twins and they were born super premature," said Marcantonio. "Like if it'd been a couple of weeks earlier, they wouldn't have made it. They were in the hospital for two months in incubators. So the weird position that we were both in really fed into the themes of what was going on in the film."

"Kindred" stars up and comer Tamara Lawrance as Charlotte, a young woman with no worldly attachments who becomes unexpectedly pregnant and forced to carry the baby to term. She has no designs on being a mother, but after the tragic death of her boyfriend, she is taken in by his overbearing mother Margaret (played by Fiona Shaw) and stepbrother Thomas (Jack Lowden) who've completely inserted themselves into her pregnancy.

The film draws obvious comparison to the genre classic "Rosemary's Baby," and while Marcantonio admits it was on his mind dur- [See 'Kindred,' E2]

MOVIE REVIEW

A human side to the final frontier

An astronaut journeys through her own inner space in director Alice Winocour's 'Proxima.'

JUSTIN CHANG
FILM CRITIC

At the beginning of "Proxima," a beautifully human-scaled movie about a great leap into the unknown, Sarah (Eva Green), a French astronaut, undergoes a series of intense physical tests in preparation for her first voyage into space. It's a grueling regimen, but Sarah, who is Mars-bound, has been training for it her whole life: She squeezes her lean, limber body through tight spaces and into mechanical constraints as required, her eyes signaling

both natural ease and total concentration. Later at home, running and playing with her 7-year-old daughter, Stella (Zélie Boulant-Lemesle), she seems to be undergoing a different kind of test, steeling herself for a year away from the most important person in her soon-to-expand universe.

A little while later, Sarah will meet the other astronauts who will join her on the International Space Station, including an American, Mike (an excellent Matt Dillon), who introduces her to a small crowd with a boorish crack about French women being good cooks. Sarah, a dab hand at deflecting sexism and maintaining her professional composure, takes the microphone and expresses her excitement at being on board. In these [See 'Proxima,' E6]

Headed for the checkout line



GREG GAYNE NBC

AMERICA FERRERA received a rewritten story line for her last season on the NBC sitcom "Superstore" after a hiatus in production because of the pandemic.

How America Ferrera's departure from 'Superstore' alters a love story.

By Ashley Lee

Warning: The following story contains spoilers from Thursday's episode of "Superstore," "California, Part 2."

Back in February, America Ferrera stunned "Superstore" fans by announcing her departure from the NBC sitcom. The producer and star was scheduled to make her final appearance in the Season 5 finale, which was scuttled when the COVID-19 pandemic led production to shut down in the spring.

Instead, the season ended with the last episode they were able to shoot: a hopeful cliffhanger, in which Amy (Ferrera) got a new job with the store's parent company. [See Ferrera, E6]

MOVIE REVIEW

The thrill is gone away, baby

The acting is superb, but the rest? ‘Kindred’ aims to be terrifying, but it’s far too timid.

By Noel Murray

The long, dark shadow of “Rosemary’s Baby” dulls the effect of “Kindred,” an artfully made but plainly derivative psychological thriller about an expectant mother who begins to suspect she’s being manipulated by nefarious forces. Writer-director Joe Marcantonio and co-writer Jason McColgan bring some fresh subtext to a familiar story, though not strongly enough to compensate for an approach to the horror genre that’s ultimately more tasteful than terrifying.

“Kindred” works best as a showcase for three superb performances. Tamara Lawrance is a revelation as Charlotte, who becomes pregnant right before she and her boyfriend Ben are planning to move from rural England to Australia. When Ben suffers a fatal accident, Charlotte reluctantly relocates to the sprawling, crumbling estate of Ben’s mother, Margaret (Fiona Shaw), and his stepbrother Thomas (Jack Lowden). There, her aloof hosts attend to her every need, supplying her with a strange-tasting tea while keeping her from asking too many questions about her prenatal care.

Shaw and Lowden are fantastic foils for Lawrance, who has a tricky role to play. As a woman who’s in a vulnerable situation — grieving a loss while feeling physically weakened by her pregnancy — Charlotte isn’t sure how much she should assert herself. It doesn’t help that Thomas is almost suspiciously sweet or that the moody Margaret seems desperate to replace her dead



IFC Midnight

MARGARET (Fiona Shaw, left) takes an interest in Charlotte’s (Tamara Lawrance) baby in “Kindred.”

‘Kindred’

Not rated

Running time: 1 hour, 40 minutes

Playing: In limited release where theaters are open; also available on VOD

For your safety

The Times is committed to reviewing theatrical film releases during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because moviegoing carries risks during this time, we remind readers to follow health and safety guidelines as outlined by the CDC and local health officials.

son with a grandchild. But Marcantonio and McColgan push the vagaries of Charlotte’s situation too far. They purposefully alternate between suggesting the heroine suffers from mental illness — making her unduly paranoid — and insinuating that Margaret and Thomas are part of some cultish conspiracy, possibly also involving the mother-to-be’s doctor and her best friend. The longer the movie goes with-

out settling these questions, the more it inadvertently diminishes its main character, whose hesitancy to wrest control of her life becomes increasingly inexplicable. The filmmakers do better with some of the smaller questions, such as how do strangers remain sociable with one another when

forced by circumstance to become housemates? Both Shaw and Lowden have standout scenes opposite Lawrance, delivering riveting monologues about the tragedies this old British manor has seen. In those moments, Charlotte wavers between genuine sympathy for Margaret and Thomas and quietly scheming to see if she can turn their vulnerability to her advantage — perhaps by getting them to start treating her more as a person and less as the host body for their unborn relative. “Kindred” doesn’t over-emphasize this, but it also clearly matters that Charlotte is Black and that her late boyfriend’s family has a hard time engaging with her in ways that feel sincerely warm. They frequently refer to the child growing inside

her as “Ben’s baby” and — under the guise of compassion — keep suggesting that she’s incapable of making her own decisions. It shows some admirable restraint that Marcantonio and McColgan don’t get too heavy-handed with the race angle. That said, much like the film’s at-times frustrating narrative ambiguity, the choice to keep the themes subtle means that “Kindred” often comes across as way too timid. Unlike “Rosemary’s Baby” — a sharp social satire that was also scary as hell — this movie remains too much at a remove, unwilling to say anything too loudly or to stoop to sensationalism. In the end, what we’re left with is an exceptionally well-acted motion picture that mostly fails to move.

Drawing from parental challenges

[‘Kindred,’ from E1] ing the writing process, he says “Kindred” was influenced more by films like Alfred Hitchcock’s “Notorious” and Sean Durkin’s “Martha Marcy May Marlene.” “I watched [‘Rosemary’s Baby’] and discussed it, but it never came up as a reference point for the look and feel of the film. But in the script writing it was definitely something we were conscious of.

“There’s a lot of my personal experience of having kids in the film,” said Marcantonio of his feature debut. “I found having one kid quite a tricky thing to transition into. And I found having two kids [even harder]. I know people say that dads can get postnatal depression. I don’t know if I’d label it that way, but I definitely found it a very difficult thing to adjust to mentally for a whole ton of reasons. I think that played a massive part in the writing of the film.”

“You don’t hear about it a lot but a lot of people really struggle with having children,” said Lawrance. “Some people always regret it, actually. I found some forums online of parents talking about how much they regret their kids, even to this day.”

“When we first found out we were having a kid, it’s not that I wasn’t excited about it,” Marcantonio clarified. “But, and it’s quite hard to admit, there’s a little part of one’s brain that does go, ‘Holy s—, my life is going to change beyond all recognition.’ In movies, people find out they’re pregnant and it’s like this big celebratory moment. There’s always that overwhelming rush of love that the parent immediately feels when seeing the baby for the first time. But that really wasn’t the case for me. The first time I saw my son, I was just like, ‘What the f— am I supposed to do now?’”

The premise of the story first came to Marcantonio 10 years ago, originally imagined from Margaret’s perspective. “It was an idea I almost immediately rejected because at the time, I could only really see it from the family’s point of view,” he said. “And it felt like it was going to be a grisly horror number and I’m not really into that kind of thing. So I just kind of left it in my ideas folder.”

Years later, while attend-



Photographs from IFC Midnight

JACK LOWDEN and Fiona Shaw portray an overbearing family manipulating their late stepbrother and son’s pregnant girlfriend in the thriller “Kindred.”



THE FILM is Joe Marcantonio’s feature debut.

ing a prenatal baby class in preparation for his first child, he met producer Dominic Norris, whom he went on to collaborate with on the 2017 short “Red Light.” After that experience, the pair set their sights on making a feature. “All of a sudden, this idea that I had kept for 10 years suddenly jumped out at me because I was now a parent — my perception of what the story could be was completely different,” said Marcantonio. “Now all of a sudden I saw it as an opportunity to tell it from the girl’s point of view and to make it more of a suspenseful, gaslighting film rather than a kind of schlocky, lock-a-girl-up movie.

“For some reason I’m really interested in truth and honesty and the fact that you can never really understand what anyone else is thinking. I just find the fact that you’re never truly in someone else’s

brain a really interesting thing.” The idea to approach Shaw for the role of Margaret was floated by casting director Alice Searby. “I didn’t think she’d do it,” Marcantonio said. “But we asked her and she wanted to meet for tea. She’s so nice and super smart. She’s about as honest and talented an actor as anyone I’ve ever come across in my life. She was kind of into it after the meeting and then she invited me around to her house for tea a couple weeks later. We had a really nice couple of hours chatting it through and then she was in.” “If anybody asks you to do a film, it’s always a compliment,” said Shaw. “And Joe had sort of concocted this mixture of horror and suspense. We talked about the script a lot. He was very interested in anything any of the actors had to say about character. But I believe that character is situational. The situation is accurate, the character emerges. So I was very taken with it.” The director credits Lowden, who also serves as a producer on the film, for putting Lawrance onto his radar. “Jack had just gotten back from the Dominican Republic where he was shooting with Tamara in a show called ‘The Long Song’ for BBC One,” said Marcantonio. “And he was like, ‘You’ve got to check out Tamara, I just shot this thing with her, she’s

amazing.’ She was the last person we saw and within about three minutes, me and Alice turned to each other and were just like ‘Right, well, that’s done.’” Although Lawrance’s identity as a Black woman brings an added shade of symbolism to the story, Marcantonio insists any message about race is unintentional. “We purposely never mentioned race or any kind of ethnicity at all in the writing,” he said. “We just wanted to cast someone who was good for the part. And really genuinely not for any kind of ‘woke’ reason, it was just that I thought it [made the story] more interesting.” “I was always super honest with Tamara that I cast her because she was the best actress we saw, not that she was the best Black actress we saw,” he added. “And I know as a white middle-class dude, it feels kind of like an eggshell thing to talk about. But I am aware that she is a wonderful, talented, Black woman who I admire very much. And I didn’t want to deny her of her Blackness. I wanted to give her the opportunity for that to be part of the story she was telling. It’s not my position to say that it doesn’t matter because it’s part of who she is as a person.” “I think it’s really interesting the undertones and overtones of being Black in that environment,” said Lawrance. “But I think

what’s interesting about Charlotte is that she’s chosen to be there — she’s chosen to run away from community and familiarity. There’s obviously an argument [to be made] for the reasons she’s treated a certain way and not believed. There’s definitely resonances between being a Black person in a white institution and recognizing that something is unfair or unjust about the situation, even if you can’t quite put your finger on it. There’s a parallel between that and the experience of many Black people around the world.” Marcantonio admits he did make one script change after casting Lawrance. “We did have her shackled by the ankle in the first draft and that changed for two reasons,” he said. “One, it feels like there are racial motifs about chains and shackling and that makes it feel like we’re trying to make a statement about something that we’re not. But equally, it just felt one step too cruel for Thomas and Margaret.” With the film opening in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has left Marcantonio in the dark about the next steps for his career. “The way cinema has been going, I was never really convinced that we’d end up with a big massive cinematic distribution anyway,” he said. “What I’ve found most frustrating is the lack of festivals and networking. Because I’m a first-time filmmaker and I don’t have an agent [in the U.K.], I don’t know what’s going on with my career in a wider sense. And usually that gets fixed when you have a festival run. You go and meet people and schmooze and that stuff happens. But now I’ve got to try and work out what to do with my career.” On the other hand, Lawrance is hopeful that the shared experience of quarantining and social distancing will allow the film to resonate deeper with audiences. “I think it’s cool that despite the odds, film is finding initiative,” she said. “It’ll be an interesting experience for people to see something like this in the comfort of their own homes. Especially people who’ve spent a long time being isolated this year. I think everybody will have a particular empathy with being stuck.”

ESPN reports the loss of 500 staffers

[ESPN, from E1] amount of its programming this year as the shutdown related to the novel coronavirus crisis truncated its lineup of NBA, Major League Baseball and other sports. The NBA Playoffs were moved into the fall, putting them in competition with other events, which cut into their ratings. Pitaro’s memo noted that the company had already taken cost-cutting steps such as executive and talent salary reductions, furloughs and budget cuts. At the same time, the shutdowns that have occurred as the country deals with rising COVID-19 infections have driven more consumers to streaming services, speeding the transition from traditional television. ESPN has successfully launched a streaming product — its service ESPN+ has 8.5 million subscribers — but still gets the bulk of its revenue from fees paid by cable and satellite operations that carry its channels. Cord-cutting and a shift by younger consumers away from TV subscriptions continue to erode that revenue source. Households with pay TV, most of which carry ESPN, have been on a steady decline from their peak in 2010. Pitaro has previously said that the company is moving toward serving the streaming audience and that ESPN will be prepared to serve viewers as they shift to new viewing platforms. The cuts are the latest within Walt Disney Co., which has been buffeted by the health crisis. The Burbank-based company in September said it would lay off 28,000 domestic employees at its parks, experiences and products division, which includes Disneyland Resort and Disney California Adventure Park in Anaheim and Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Other studios have also been squeezed by the health crisis. Lionsgate, the studio behind franchises such as “John Wick,” on Thursday said it is laying off 15% of staff in its film division as the company adapts to massive changes in the movie business that have been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Santa Monica-based studio’s motion-picture group employs about 450 people worldwide, a studio spokesman said, meaning nearly 70 positions are being cut. Other Lionsgate divisions are not affected by the reduction. Joe Drake, chairman of Lionsgate’s motion-picture group, said in a memo to staff that the staffing reductions were part of a larger reorganization of the movie division. “While our business remains fundamentally strong, we are not immune to the ongoing COVID crisis that is impacting us like so many other studios,” Drake said in the letter to employees. “As a leader whose first priority is ‘A Best Place to Work,’ it is with a heavy heart that I tell you as part of the changes to our operational structure, we will be saying goodbye to a number of our colleagues, friends and co-workers today.”



Photographs by Associated Press

THE MEDIA companies ESPN and Lionsgate had bad news on Thursday.

TV REVIEW

Hope this comedy ripens with time

‘B Positive’ is one of fall TV’s few new shows. And it has an uphill battle ahead.

ROBERT LLOYD
TELEVISION CRITIC

It is a new kind of fall TV season, amid a year in which the usual life cycle of a new television show — sewn in spring, developed in summer, harvested in autumn, often mulched come winter — has been disturbed.

“B Positive,” the only new CBS comedy this fall, stars Thomas Middleditch (“Silicon Valley”) as Drew, who has just discovered he needs a kidney, and Tony winner Annaleigh Ashford as Gina, an old high school classmate who impetuously offers him one of hers.

The catch — there has to be a catch or this all ends quickly — is that Gina drinks and takes drugs, and she needs to be sober for three months before qualifying as a donor. Drew is fretful by nature and will fret over this; Gina, who might be called a “Manic Pixie Hot Mess,” will give him reason to. It is the case that people donate kidneys, even to absolute strangers — there’s a term for it, “nondirected altruistic kidney donor” — though as seen here it feels less of a promise than a premise, a situation to build a comedy on. “I gave you my word, and where I come from that’s the only thing a person has to give. Except for, you know, money or sex,” Gina says when Drew suggests it might have been rash to make the offer.

It is a show produced under COVID-19 — so it can be done — set in a world in which COVID-19 does not exist. (It would only get in the way of the kidney plotline.)

Will Drew die before he has ever really lived? Well, he won’t die — it is not that kind of show. Television series have featured dying main characters before and, barring “the Big C” — cancella-



SONJA FLEMMING CBS

ANNALEIGH ASHFORD offers Thomas Middleditch her kidney in “B Positive,” a new comedy from CBS.

‘B Positive’

Where: CBS
When: 8:30 p.m. Thursday
Rating: TV-14-L (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 14 with an advisory for coarse language)

tion — there are always ways to keep them alive: a misdiagnosis, a miracle cure, a multiverse. Things will go off and on the rails on the way there, naturally; the leads will align and misalign. But if CBS gives them the chance — and it is a network that is slow to cancel, even under normal circumstances — they will teach each other something about life, and living it better, because that is how that comedy machine works. But it would take some heavy lifting in the writers room to work them

around anything more than a platonic relationship, so ill are they suited to it. (Drew is “the one guy I didn’t hook up with in high school,” as Gina says, and it should stay that way.)

Behind the camera, “B Positive” is the work of veterans: producer Chuck Lorre (“Two and a Half Men,” “Mike & Molly,” “The Big Bang Theory,” you know them), director James Burrows (cocreated “Cheers,” directed every episode of “Will & Grace” in its original run) and creator Marco Pennette (“Caroline in the City”), who have been alive for 201 years among them.

This is to say a certain professionalism reigns, which some will see as tired and others as comforting; but the jokes are delivered efficiently and on time. There are death jokes and pee jokes and a couple of sex jokes that seem inappropriate for the

show’s 8:30 p.m. time slot, as coded as they may be. Themes from other Lorre sitcoms recur here — a medical element, as in “Bob Hearts Abishola” and “The Kominsky Method,” substance abuse as in “Mom.” The “odd couple” pairing is of course the meat and potatoes of the sitcom genre.

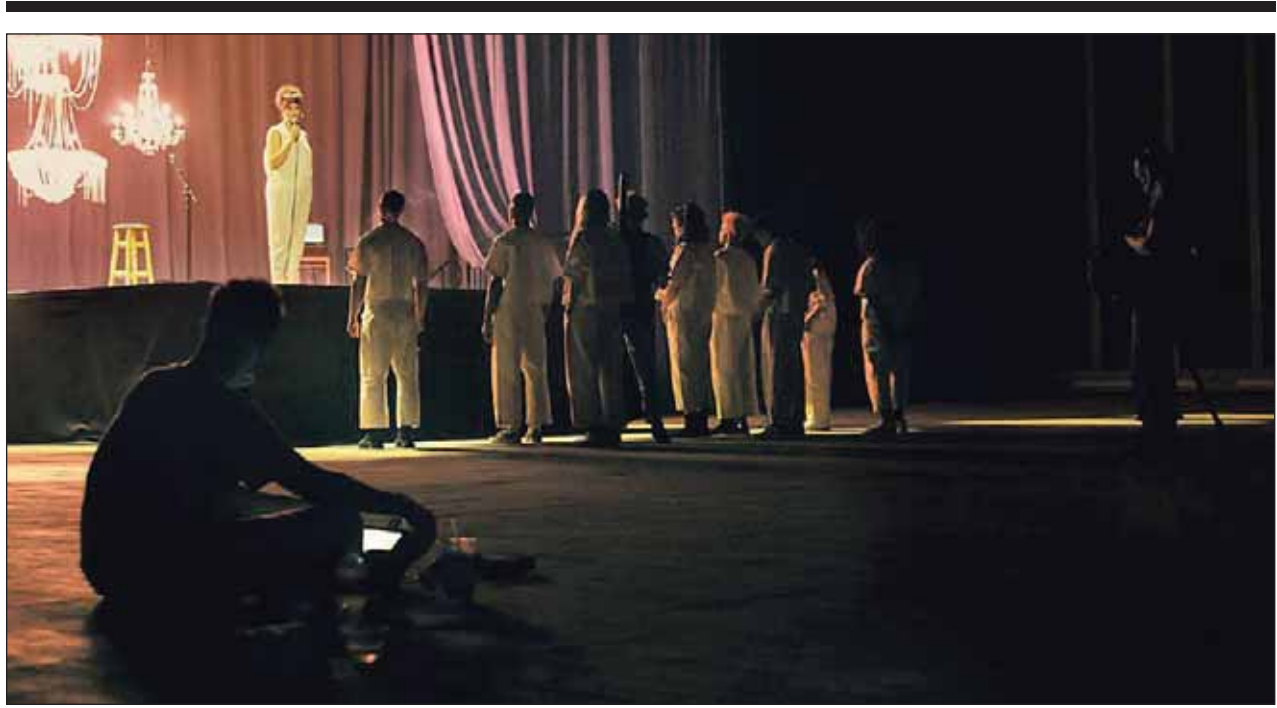
When Drew says — it having been suggested that he ask a friend to be a donor — “I don’t really have kidney friends. I mean, I have friends, don’t get me wrong, just not the kind that, you know, care about me,” you do believe him, the little rain cloud. That his wife (Sara Rue) has left him and that his teenage daughter (Izzy G.) hates him, if only in that can’t-be-bothered teenage daughter way (“Love you.” “Yeah, great.”) seems reasonable; he’s a self-involved, sad-sack fussy budget. Apart from Gina, he doesn’t tell anyone he’s sick, but the way

he refrains from telling them just makes him seem weirder: “You seem bleaker than usual,” says his ex-wife. As to Gina, in the two episodes available for review, he hasn’t really regarded her as much more than a walking kidney, as when a hungry cartoon character stranded on a desert isle looks at another character and sees a hamburger.

Oddly, Drew is told more than once, and we are seemingly meant to accept as fact, that the wait for an organ is 10 years, which isn’t true — the median time is half that, according to the American Kidney Fund. It does sound more dramatic, I suppose. He is also “TV ill,” which is to say, not incapacitated or even discomfited; his illness is, practically speaking, an idea, a motivation. (Similarly, although he is “a therapist” — “internet degree but still very real” — it’s not a job we see him do, or even dis-

cuss, because his real job is being a character in this sitcom.) And as Hot Messes go, Gina is mostly chirpy and sweet, a people person and only part-time trouble — a responsible ray of sunshine by day, driving senior citizens to doctor’s appointments, leading them in rap-a-longs, and a blackout drunk (named Becca) by night. (Unlike in “Mom,” which could get serious about addiction, inebriation is played strictly for laughs.) Things do improve with the second episode, which brings in a host of additional characters, including Linda Lavin (who starred in Pennette’s “Conrad Bloom”) and “Love Boat” doctor and KAOS chief Bernie Koppell, as residents of the assisted living facility whose residents Gina drives around. The dialysis center established in the second episode is essentially the workplace in the comedy, where Drew spends time with colorful weirdos to whom he is otherwise unconnected — Terrence Terrell as a former pro football player, David Anthony Higgins as a dentist slow on the uptake and Briga Heelan as a Type A business sort who “can’t let work ruin I’m sick — that’ll get you fired faster than being pregnant.” Darryl Stephens plays the drily acid nurse who plugs them in and checks them out, and though nearly every line he gets has a laugh attached, he is in many ways the most convincing character here. You have met this person in real life.

That is not to knock the rest of the cast, notably including Kether Donohue as Gina’s partner in crime; they’re just getting their feet wet. Middleditch has an uphill battle to make his character more sympathetic than annoying; Ashford needs the material to integrate the angel and the devil she’s being asked to play alternately into a single entity. But shows like this tend to ripen with time, so that, even if the writing never substantially matures, the characters do; they get real, like Pinocchio. Whether it has time, only time will tell.



PAUL TUCKER

THE QUESTIONING voices of Black women meld into a “choreopoem” on white privilege in “November.”

THEATER REVIEW

They refuse to be silenced

CHARLES McNULTY
THEATER CRITIC

“How many times have I been told not to be angry at my own murder?”

The questioning voices of Black women meld into a sociological poem in “November,” a film by Phillip Youmans in response to Claudia Rankine’s play “Help,” which was in previews in March at the New York arts center the Shed before the COVID-19 pandemic scuttled live performance.

The stage’s loss has turned into the screen’s gain in this beautiful mixed media homage of words, bodies and images. Commissioned and produced by the Shed in partnership with Tribeca Studios, “November” is available for free through Saturday on [theshed.org](#).

The timing with the election isn’t accidental. As the nation was deciding whether to reelect a president who has stoked racial division as a Machiavellian political strategy, the poetry of Rankine, best known for her prize-winning collection “Citizen: An American Lyric,” confronts the assumptions and prerogatives of white men

through chance public conversations.

The role of the narrator, a Black woman who refuses to be silenced by “the mechanism of manners,” is shared by Zora Howard, Tiffany Rachelle Stewart, Crystal Dickinson, April Matthis and Melanie Nicholls-King, each of whom brings a distinctive style and vocal timbre to the text. The effect is that of a “choreopoem,” the designation chosen by Ntozake Shange for her landmark theater piece, “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf.”

Rankine’s lyricism, however, is as orderly as a town hall. The poetry, which blends academic buzzwords such as “negotiate” with more personal utterances, stays rigorously on message.

Standing in an airport line next to a bold white guy, Narrator 1 remarks, “You shouldn’t have voted for him.” Something about his ownership of the queue tipped her off. She knew he’d be defensive, but she couldn’t resist articulating the unspoken between them.

After learning that Narrator 5 teaches at Yale, another white interlocutor re-

‘November’

When: Streaming on demand through Saturday
Cost: Free
Info: [theshed.org](#)
Running time: 50 minutes

marks, “My son wants to go there but wasn’t accepted during the early application process. It’s tough when you can’t play the diversity card.” Momentarily speechless, Rankine’s surrogate can’t decide whether this stranger’s words just slipped out before he could catch them, or was he “snapping the white privilege flag” in her face?

The tone of these reported colloquies is publicly introspective. The desire to challenge and call out isn’t separate from the longing to live in less segregated realities.

Narrator 3 puts the matter more desperately: “Why do I have to die in order for you to live?” Is there another way to make space in the world? Must one group always be forced to “swerve” out of the way of the histori-

cally dominant power?

The film moves from the stage to the city and back again. Taibi Magar’s stage direction assembles the performers into configurations that occasionally evoke a modern-day Greek chorus, especially when the women sing in rapturous union.

Youmans’ cinematography wisely doesn’t try to compete with Rankine’s language. The visual accompaniment functions as a dreamy underscore, existing in parallel rather than in illustration. A Black woman shaves a white man’s head. Black swimmers revel in the freedom of their bodies in the water. A pickup basketball game yields casual virtuosity.

“November” embraces the prospect of difficult dialogue. Of parsing through shame and guilt, of bringing out of the shadows fear and menace. Love flickers in the distance, but first comes reckoning.

“The analysis of our murderer, and of our murder, is so we can see we are not murdered.” Narrator 3 speaks for her fellow questioners in wondering whether it’s “possible for all of us to live and be in relation?”

THEATER REVIEW

See a play from the car at Garage

By NIKKI MUNOZ

It’s fittingly named Garage Theatre: a series of live shows presented with COVID-19 protocols in the parking garage of the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center. The setup allows for an audience of 16 cars surrounding a square “stage” for the first production, the new play “March,” conceived and directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera.

The play — a coproduction with Playwrights’ Arena, where Rivera is artistic director — takes place 25 years in the future, in the midst of a pandemic. An authoritarian government is seeking out trans and gender-nonconforming people, and individuals are forced to dress according to the gender norms of their birth sex.

The play’s premise is stirring, the world imagined here feeling not too far off from the harmful actions that the Trump administration has taken against trans people and the continued violence that the trans community faces.

The three main characters — Sydney (MJ Brown/ Miss Barbie-Q), Lavinia (Amir Levi) and Mary (Coretta Monk) — have back stories that are vivid and compelling. Sydney battles discrimination and struggles to find a job because of her past drug addiction. Mary is often mistaken for a

sex worker, and Lavinia details the verbal assault of the workplace and the toll that takes. The characters convey pain that’s seen and felt.

These performances prove the power of “March” despite the fuzzy plot of the play, whose script was developed as an exercise involving all of the actors. The pandemic the characters are living through is vague, and for the most part, how it affects the trans community remains underexplained. Monologues by the three protagonists take up a significant early portion of the 45-minute production, leaving a rush of action toward the end. A moment of magical realism feels like it comes out of nowhere, a *deus ex machina* ending.

But the dialogue, though sometimes stilted, does make an impact. And even if you wish for a more structured plot and a longer, fuller story for these characters, what you do see is still memorable, the message of “March” still poignant.

‘March’

Where: Los Angeles LGBT Center, 1118 N. McCadden Place, L.A. Masks required.
When: 7:30 and 9 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, through Nov. 15
Tickets: \$20 per car
Info: [eventbrite.com/e/march-tickets-121093851971](#)



Garage Theatre

CORETTA MONK, center, stars in “March” at the L.A. LGBT Center’s Garage Theatre production.

COMICS

SUDOKU

6			9		3			7
					7		2	
2		3		6		1		
7						9		1
			4					
9		1						6
				9		7		8
		5		2				
1			5		8			

Level: Diabolical

				4				
						3		
4				5				
			2					
6	1						5	
			3					

Level: Moderate

6	2	5	7	4	9	1	3	8
7	8	1	5	2	3	9	4	6
9	4	3	1	6	8	2	5	7
4	9	8	7	6	3	2	1	5
3	5	2	6	1	4	7	8	9
8	1	7	3	9	2	5	6	4
1	3	8	4	5	7	6	9	2
5	7	4	9	3	6	8	1	5
6	9	2	8	1	4	7	3	

4	6	3	1	5	2
2	5	1	3	4	6
5	1	6	4	2	3
3	2	4	6	1	5
1	3	5	2	6	4
6	4	2	5	3	1

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY

6X			3-
2÷	1-	4+	
		5+	2÷
3-			

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CHALLENGING

3÷	40X	72X	3÷		6+
			1-		
2			12X		
11+	6	3÷		60X	12+
		12X	3-		
				3+	

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PREVIOUS ANSWERS

9+	2÷	36X	6X
4	1	2	3
1	4	3	2
2	3	4	1
3	2	1	4
6X	2÷	36X	6X
1	3	2	4
3	4	6	2
5	2	4	1
2	1	5	6
4	6	3	3
4	6	3	5
5	1	3	4
6	5	1	3

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HOROSCOPE

By HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): Don't get too hung up on nailing the accuracy of every decision; that will hold you back from making a choice.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Sometimes it seems as though all your happiness is dependent on a single outcome. It's time to be more realistic about the stakes.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): The limits on your perception include mechanisms to keep you safe and grounded in a shared reality. You'll challenge them and win.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): No one wants in on the process; they just want the transformation. Do the work. Don't talk about it. Put that energy into the price tag.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): With a mind abuzz with ideas, wishes, hopes and dreams, be sure to also focus on the practical aspects of the present moment. If you

don't enjoy today, pleasure stays out of reach.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Projects, dreams and relationships have a life cycle. When it's over, it's over, and nothing can revive it. The gift is a clean slate.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): You know how to buckle down and work hard, but today the situation asks you to envision solutions different from the ones that brought success in the past.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You play well with others, and you introduce people who wouldn't otherwise meet. You put two and two together so that it adds up to much more than four.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Some of the best people you know fell into your life without being vetted. You happened on greatness, and you'll do it again.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There's a time and place when "nothing" is just about the most perfect thing you

could do. Not now, though. Today, the risks are worth it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): People are generally skeptical of flattery, but the way you do it is so pure that it dissolves defenses.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): This is a rare moment with a cosmic gift to match. You'll have an idea about how to improve your life, and you will be right about it, too.

Today's birthday (Nov. 6): You're so productive and successful over the next 10 weeks. It will be a little fun to know you inspire envy along with the other benefits your hard work reels in. A windfall in March is well-deserved. There's a crossroads in May, but whatever you choose, you wind up in the same lovely place. Aries and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers: 38, 2, 11, 4 and 18.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By Kevin Christian

- ACROSS**
- 1 Persepolis ruins locale
 - 5 Prickly plants
 - 10 Former Supreme Court first name
 - 14 iPod model
 - 15 Garden nuisance
 - 16 Protection org. since 1970
 - 17 Lions in the city?
 - 19 Slangy sweetsies
 - 20 Pulitzer-winning author Lurie
 - 21 Spring
 - 23 Conan's network
 - 24 Willamette River capital
 - 25 Fish with experience?
 - 27 UFO fliers, presumably
 - 28 _ bath
 - 30 Luke and Leia's mother
 - 31 Show-offs
 - 35 Pats gently
 - 36 Bees behind bars?
 - 38 Inland Asian sea
 - 40 Fixture in some no-parking zones
 - 41 Starr man
 - 43 One kept on a child at the pool
 - 44 Hole goal
 - 47 Whales on the run?
 - 51 GE rival
 - 53 "Alas!" prompter
 - 54 Seafarers
 - 55 USC athlete
 - 56 Novel ending?
 - 58 Wolves with a clean lair?
 - 60 Miranda _ of "Homeland"
 - 61 Dutch cheeses
 - 62 Czech track legend Zátpek
 - 63 Zen riddle
 - 64 "Building a Mystery" singer McLachlan
 - 65 Cook of comedy
- DOWN**
- 1 If
 - 2 Scold harshly
 - 3 Wile E. Coyote weapons
 - 4 White _
 - 5 Bo's'n boss
 - 6 Loan fig.
 - 7 Put on ice

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20							21			22		23		
24						25					26			
27					28	29					30			
			31				32	33	34		35			
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38	39					40								
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47					48	49	50			51	52			
53					54					55				
56		57			58			59						
60					61					62				
63					64					65				

8 Helped through a tough time, with "over"

9 Brainstorming session output

10 Director Reiner

11 Paper with Money and Life sections

12 Awesome, slangily

13 Bothers

18 Public town park

22 Narc's find

25 "Funny thing is ..."

26 "I _ thought of that"

29 Home to the Ogden Raptors of MiLB

31 Hägar the Horrible's wife

32 Med. condition with repetitive behavior

33 Hurt in a ring

34 Take out, as a vampire

36 Italian bacon

37 Like difficult push-ups

38 "Do you and I need to clear the air?"

39 Dish with arborio rice

42 Withdraw, with "out"

44 _ party

45 Aleve rival

46 Really get to

48 Wasp nest sites

49 Red-carpet brand

50 NBA great Robertson nicknamed "The Big O"

52 Minibike kin

55 Derriere

57 Long time to wait, facetiously

59 Thurman in films

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MEDAL	BET	EMCEE
ALONE	ALI	GALEN
CHINSTRAP	ELECT	
SITUART	ASIA	
INFIELDTARPS		
POTATO	ORSTAI	
APIN	ONODIRT	
SPEAKINGPARTS		
SSRS	ACE	TELE
AGO	ATE	CLOSED
LOBSTERTRAPS		
RIBS	JIAN	UGLI
BRINE	JACKSPRAT	
CHUGS	ARK	KAINE
COMET	GAS	ASPEN

BRIDGE

By FRANK STEWART

"How much do you know about human anatomy?" Cy the Cynic asked me.

"Just bare bones," I said.

"The tongue is the body's only muscle that is connected at only one end," Cy told me. "That doesn't stop my partners from making full use of it."

Cy was East in today's deal from his penny game. Against six hearts, West led the king of spades, then the ace. South ruffed with dummy's king of trumps, and Cy threw a club.

"Declarer drew trumps," the Cynic told me, "pitching two diamonds from dummy. He took the A-K of clubs, led a diamond to dummy and ruffed a club. When my partner and I followed, he

claimed. He could pitch his last two spades on dummy's third high diamond and good club.

"Partner gave me a tongue-lashing," Cy went on. "I was tongue-tied. Did he want me to discard a diamond on the second spade so declarer could run the diamonds?"

Cy missed the best defense. He must discard a trump at Trick Two! Then the slam is unmakeable.

You hold: ♠ 10 7 4 2 ♥ A Q J 10 9 ♦ 9 5 ♣ A K. You open one heart, your partner responds one spade, you raise to two spades and he next bids 2NT. What do you say?

Answer: You have four-card spade support and maximum values for your single raise, so a jump to four spades is indicated. Still, your spades are poor, and

you have trick-taking power in hearts. To raise to 3NT will be right if partner holds J 8 5 3, K 3, K Q 7, Q 10 5 2.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 8
♥ K 4 3
♦ A K Q 7 3
♣ 9 8 6 2

WEST

♠ A K Q J 6 5 3
♥ 5
♦ 8 4
♣ 7 5 3

EAST

♠ 9
♥ 8 7 6 2
♦ J 10 6 2
♣ Q J 10 4

SOUTH

♠ 10 7 4 2
♥ A Q J 10 9
♦ 9 5
♣ A K

SOUTH

1 ♥

WEST

4 ♠

NORTH

5 ♥

EAST

Pass

Opening lead — ♠ K

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Worried about his ill will

Dear Amy: My 75-year-old father told me he decided his stepson (my stepbrother) will no longer receive anything in his will. Why?

My stepbrother has challenged my father's political opinions a few times. I've heard both sides of these stories, and while my stepbrother never yelled or made personal attacks against my father, it was apparently too much for my stepbrother to even question my father's beliefs. My father is not speaking to him.

My stepmother died years ago, and it seems my father is not considering any wishes she may have had, or he simply doesn't care what she would have wanted.

Like my stepbrother, I am diametrically opposed to my father's political opinions. Dad never holds back his opinions. Unlike my stepbrother, however, I do not challenge him; I just listen and nod.

I think my father's decision to remove my stepbrother from his will is ridiculous. Should I let my stepbrother know? Should I try to convince my father otherwise? I'm at a loss.

FLUMMOXED

Dear Flummoxed: I don't think you should notify your stepbrother about your father's plans, which may change.

I do think you should advocate for your stepbrother, reflecting your own compassionate opinion that his mother would have wanted him to be treated fairly in your father's will.

I also think you should be brave enough to judiciously tell your father that you disagree with his political views but you have been keeping quiet because he seems to link his own happiness and relationships to a person's political views: "Dad, I don't always agree with your politics, but I still love and respect you. It makes me sad that you don't seem able to do the same."

I applaud your advocacy on your stepbrother's behalf. You can't force your father to the table, and you can't force him to leave money to your stepbrother (or you) in his will, but when the time comes, you could address the inequity by sharing your inheritance with him.

Dear Amy: "What are your plans for the rest of the day?" I have been asked this question by an assistant at a drug store and various personnel at my dental office.

This question has also been asked multiple times at another business I frequent.

ther's plans, which may change.

I do think you should advocate for your stepbrother, reflecting your own compassionate opinion that his mother would have wanted him to be treated fairly in your father's will.

I also think you should be brave enough to judiciously tell your father that you disagree with his political views but you have been keeping quiet because he seems to link his own happiness and relationships to a person's political views: "Dad, I don't always agree with your politics, but I still love and respect you. It makes me sad that you don't seem able to do the same."

I applaud your advocacy on your stepbrother's behalf. You can't force your father to the table, and you can't force him to leave money to your stepbrother (or you) in his will, but when the time comes, you could address the inequity by sharing your inheritance with him.

Dear Amy: "What are your plans for the rest of the day?" I have been asked this question by an assistant at a drug store and various personnel at my dental office.

This question has also been asked multiple times at another business I frequent.

Is this question an icebreaker, a conversation starter or something else?

I struggle to answer because I think that what I'm doing the rest of the day is no one's business but mine.

How do I politely answer without offending the asker?

PERPLEXED AND PRIVATE

Dear Perplexed: This question is an icebreaker, a conversation starter and something else. The "something else" is sending you off into the world with a question, versus the old standby: "Have a nice day!"

The question is awkward. It seems like a social "throw-away," and yet it is so specific that it puts you in a jam. Do you have to answer?

Please understand that these people are not trying to pry into your private life. Many people yearn for connection, even if that connection is glancing. These various employees may be aware that some of their customers are a little starved for conversation, and this is a way to nudge one along.

A polite answer would be: "Oh, same old, same old. I hope you have a nice rest of your day."

Send questions to Amy Dickinson by email to ask amy@amydickinson.com.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



ARGYLE SWEATER By Scott Hilburn



BLISS By Harry Bliss



DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



COMICS

DOONESBURY By Garry Trudeau Doonesbury is on vacation. This is a reprint.



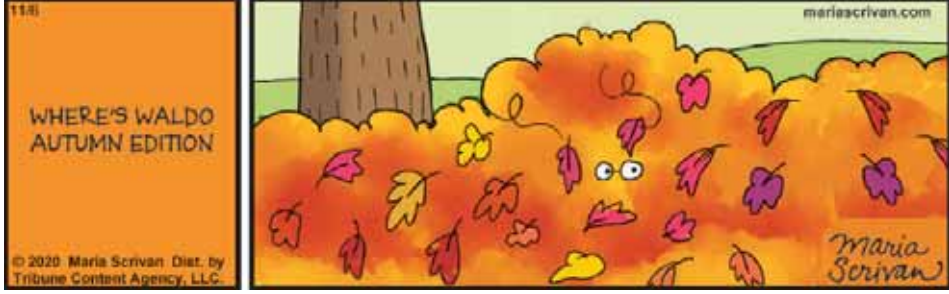
LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz



CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell



HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



LIO By Mark Tatulli



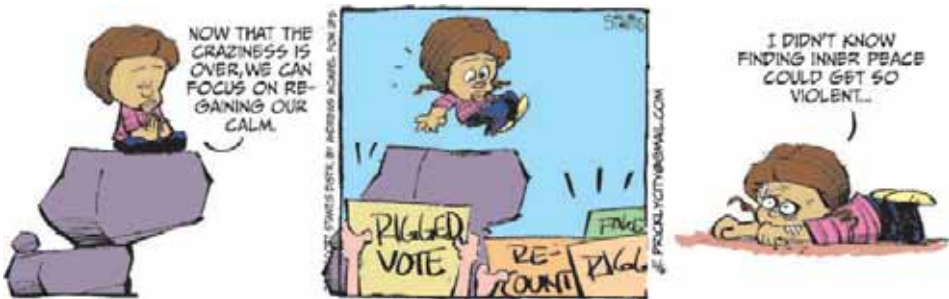
ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



PRICKLY CITY By Scott Stantis



FRAZZ By Jef Mallett



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



DILBERT By Scott Adams



BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



JUMP START By Robb Armstrong



9 CHICKWEED LANE By Brooke McEldowney



BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall



GET FUZZY By Darby Conley



BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz



An astronaut’s inner journey

['**Proxima**,' from E1] opening moments, the writer-director Alice Winocour effectively lays out her territory: not the grand vastness of outer space but rather the human obstacle course that Sarah must navigate first and all the expressions of polite respect, gentle concern and barely concealed scorn she must endure along the way.

Sound mundane? It isn't. By focusing so closely on the planning stages, "**Proxima**," which Winocour wrote with Jean-Stéphane Bron, somehow suggests more about the physical and psychological dislocation of space travel than many pictures that blast off right from the get-go. This is partly because of the intense realism of the film's entirely on-location shooting (by the cinematographer George Lechaptois), which takes us inside the European Space Agency in Cologne, Germany, and the facility in Russia's Star City, where Sarah, Mike and another member of their crew, Anton (Aleksai Fateev), go to complete their training.

We are with Sarah, really with her, at every step, whether she's being hurled about in a human centrifuge or having to move swiftly underwater in a heavy spacesuit — physical trials that Winocour captures with matter-of-fact realism and otherworldly strangeness. At one point, Sarah's body is fitted for a mold that will be used to construct her seat on the rocket, allowing for the significant changes she will undergo during the mission. ("I'm becoming a space person," she murmurs in voice-over, as the molding material is poured around her.)

In her earlier features "**Augustine**" and "**Disorder**," Winocour demonstrated a gift for sensory filmmaking,



EVA GREEN and Matt Dillon play astronauts planning for their voyage to Mars in the movie "**Proxima**."

'Proxima'

Not rated
(In English and French with English subtitles)
Running time: 1 hour, 47 minutes
Playing: Available on VOD platforms

for bringing the audience into an intimate, tactile understanding of her characters' physical and psychological states. She accomplishes something equally evocative here, and the achievement isn't hers alone. Green, often typecast as witches and femmes fatales, here takes on a too-rare leading role devoid of any such fantastical trappings and emerges with one

of the strongest performances of her career. The athletic demands are formidable, but they are more than matched by the emotional ones: Green achieves an especially moving rapport with the young Boulant-Lemesle, terrific as a girl who's frightened at losing her mom for a year — or forever, should something go horribly wrong.

Sarah is hardly the first movie astronaut to confront feelings of guilt over leaving children behind on terra firma, as her fellow voyagers in "**First Man**," "**Ad Astra**" and "**Interstellar**," among others, can surely attest. Those other protagonists, of course, were men, and within even the remarkable, rarefied field of space travel, Winocour subtly pinpoints an all-too-unremarkable

double standard. An astronaut like Mike may think nothing of having his wife (Nancy Tate) take care of their sons for a year. Sarah, however, is made to feel the particularly heavy weight of her decision. It's there in the mix of support and resentment she gets from Stella's astrophysicist father (Lars Eidinger) or in the guilt-tripping questions asked by Wendy (Sandra Hüller), a psychologist preparing mother and daughter for long-term separation.

None of these characters is treated as a cardboard antagonist. Even Dillon's Mike, who at one point condescendingly asks Sarah if she wants to lighten her training load, is shown to have his redeeming qualities. Winocour shows us smart, sometimes insensitive and funda-

mentally decent people navigating an extraordinary situation and the sacrifices that are made in service of a grand collective undertaking.

The science of space travel demands precise calculations, coolly and unerringly executed. But the business of being human is messier, more ambiguous and infinitely harder to control. At the launch center in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, Sarah and her crew mates are placed under strict quarantine, isolating her from Stella during what will be their last moments together for a long time. But in those crucial moments, Winocour allows her characters a fleeting moment of grace, a respite that will sustain them through the trials of this world and the next.

America Ferrera is checking out

['**Ferrera**,' from E1] pany in California, and Jonah (Ben Feldman) offered to leave his life in St. Louis and move there with her.

Ferrera — who exited the series to pursue other projects and spend more time with her family — agreed to see this story line through to Thursday's episode, the series' milestone 100th. So how did her character leave big-box retailer Cloud 9, especially since she and Feldman have been the show's central "will they or won't they?" couple since its 2015 premiere?

In tears. Amy and Jonah broke up.

"We wanted it to be a nice goodbye to this character we love, but there's just no nice way to break up this long love story," said Owen Ellickson, who wrote the episode. "It was going to be heartbreaking, no matter what."

The breakup was a collaborative decision, made with Ferrera and Feldman. "This was the best solution that we all came up with together, the thing that felt most real," said co-showrunner Gabe Miller.

"We definitely discussed other options, and even entertained the idea of them dating long-distance. But when we thought about how that would actually play out on the show, it seemed like it might be actually more frustrating for viewers to think that Amy is just on the other side of Jonah's phone calls. And eventually that would peter out and we'd end up having to do an off-camera breakup, which really wouldn't feel right."

Real-world issues

It was a long road behind the scenes to the sudden split. As a series that has never shied away from addressing real-world issues like gun control, ageism and immigration, the creatives concluded that COVID-19 would be a major story line throughout the sixth season.

"When everything shut down, we all went home from playing these goofy little grocery store workers on TV, while our real-life counterparts stayed at work and became these life-risking frontline heroes," said Feldman, who became a series producer last year. "It energized us. We felt like we owed it to these people to



CASEY DURKIN NBC

AMERICA FERRERA and Ben Feldman play characters with a "will they or won't they?" relationship.

tell the story right."

Last week's season premiere showed how the novel coronavirus was testing Amy and Jonah's relationship. Beyond their own worries as store employees in an unprecedented emergency, Amy's time was constantly monopolized by Zoom meetings with corporate, not only about safety protocols for her current role but also onboarding for her new one. That episode spanned many months, mirroring the time that's passed since Jonah and Amy agreed to move to California together.

"Having that time in between, both in the show and in real life, made it seem more plausible that they could get to a point of breaking up," said co-showrunner Jonathan Green. "It put their relationship under stress the way the pandemic has made everybody rethink their priorities and what they want for their future. It's made a lot of people think about a lot of things they were taking for granted before. So the next time we saw them, they've changed, just as we all have through-

out this weird time."

Besides integrating COVID-19, the script also finds Jonah secretly taking one of Amy's rings to get it measured in order to propose. The move leaves Amy questioning their relationship and even whether she wants to remarry at all.

"I married Adam because I felt like I had to, and that was the wrong thing to do," she explains. "I just feel like this move is pushing us down this path, and I don't think we'd be talking about marriage if I didn't get this job, right?"

Jonah, who is uprooting his life to follow her across the country, tries to hide his shock as he returns Amy's ring. An earlier version of the episode featured a more comedic version of cold feet, but Ellickson says the change was necessary "to get these two, after their saga of years together, to break up so quickly, in a way that felt earned and real. It had to be something ugly and painful, that really showed the gap between them."

Amy tries to resolve

things by suggesting she might be open to marrying Jonah someday and that they should see how things go once they're in California. He asks her — not as a proposal but as a straightforward question — if she wants to marry him. Finally, she answers: "No."

"When we first met, you told me that all your days felt the same and you felt trapped," he tells her. "And I don't want to be the reason you feel like that again."

Feldman and Ferrera, who was unavailable to comment for this story, rehearsed these pivotal scenes over Zoom — a rarity of sitcom shooting schedules. "When you get into real moments with real emotion within a half-hour comedy, it comes down to making the actors comfortable about what they're saying," said director Victor Nelli Jr. "We read the scenes a couple times, so we're not rushed on the day of shooting; we talked about the scenes, the past, what's going on and where we're going. We wanted to earn those lines and make them real in such a concise way so that it doesn't feel forced."

Tweaks and takes

The episode's two big conversations weren't finalized until the day of shooting, with endless tweaks and numerous takes to get them right. "These are the signature fights of our series, and on set we were all feeling like it just needed to get a little more raw," said Ellickson. "I give a lot of credit to America, because she's been the star of the show; she could leave in whatever manner she wanted. But she was OK with being the person who screwed up in the relationship, which I think is the best thing for the series."

Immediately after the breakup, Sandra (Kaliko Kauahi) cathartically shouts into the void, "I hate 2020!" Green said the line is for any viewers disappointed by the decision: "That was our way of acknowledging, in a funny way, 'Yes, we know we've been building up this relationship for many seasons, and [it] was supposed to be the perfect love story. We're very aware of how this might be tearing some people apart.'"

The final scene Ferrera shot on the series, in which Amy puts on a smile for a

tribute video from her colleagues, happened to involve the entire cast. "It was hard; the whole crew wants to hug and they can't, and everyone was so separated in masks and plastic shields, sitting apart from each other," said Nelli, who previously directed Ferrera in the "**Ugly Betty**" series finale. "But there was a moment at the end where all the actors got together in a circle, really thanking each other. We were crying. It was beautiful."

The episode closes with everyone celebrating with drinks and fireworks in the parking lot. Amy and Jonah don't speak again but instead share a distanced, silent toast. "We're saying goodbye to Amy, and we want to wish her well as she leaves, but we didn't have the time to get Jonah to that place emotionally, and that toast is the most he can muster," said Ellickson. "It would be dishonest to pretend like it wasn't going to be terrible for both of them, that it's actually all cool. That would just do a disservice to the relationship we built all these years."

Though the split is sad, Ellickson, Feldman and the showrunners agree it's much more satisfying than what was initially planned in April, a week after "California, Part 1." "I 100% feel that the lack of convenience throughout this entire process has created a far more nuanced and realistic story, both on a narrative level and on an emotional level," said Feldman. "I feel so guilty having a reason to be excited about a deadly pandemic, but in this one little tiny corner of the giant hellscape that is coronavirus, it just became so much fuller and richer and more interesting."

And if Ferrera ever wants to return to Cloud 9, the store's doors are open. "One thing that we liked about Amy leaving to take a job with corporate is that she's still involved in the world of the show, and so it wouldn't be completely out of nowhere for her to still be interacting with her former colleagues from time to time," said Miller. "We love America; she left on very good terms and she has talked about wanting to come back at some point. There are no firm plans yet, but we definitely would love to have her back sometime."

TV Highlights

During the coronavirus crisis, the Los Angeles Times is making some temporary changes to our print sections. The prime-time TV grid is on hiatus in print but an expanded version is available in your daily Times eNewspaper. You can find a printable PDF online at: latimes.com/whats-on-tv.

SERIES

The Greatest #AtHome Videos (N) 8 p.m. CBS

Shark Tank In this new episode the panel of potential investors considers a healthful alternative to salt. 8 p.m. ABC

World's Funniest Animals Host Elizabeth Stanton welcomes Danielle Nicolet ("The Flash") as a special guest. 9 p.m. CW

20/20 This new episode documents the 2009 disappearance of Utah wife and mother Susan Powell. 9 p.m. ABC

Great Performances Before becoming a late-night television host, James Corden stars in "One Man, Two Guvnors," an adaptation of a 1743 farce, presented here as a filmed stage production. 9 p.m. KOCE

My Big Italian Adventure (N) 9 p.m. HGTV

Warrior Ah Sahm, Young Jun and Chao (Andrew Koji, Jason Tobin, Hoon Lee) accompany Vega (Maria Elena Laas) to a fight tournament. 10 p.m. Cinemax

TALK SHOWS

Today COVID-19; chef Nina Compton; Kenny Neal. (N) 7 a.m. KNBC

Good Morning America Kylie Minogue performs. (N) 7 a.m. KABC

Live With Kelly and Ryan Diane Lane ("Let Him Go"). (N) 9 a.m. KABC

Home & Family Lucia Micarelli; Robert Herjavec. (N) 10 a.m. Hallmark

The Talk Scott Bakula and Chelsea Field. (N) 1 p.m. KCBS

The Drew Barrymore Show Winnie Harlow; Laura Sobiech and director Justin Baldoni. (N) 2 p.m. KCBS

The Kelly Clarkson Show Fortune Feimster; Sara Bareilles; Guy Fieri. (N) 2 p.m. KNBC

The Doctors Finesse Mitchell. (N) 2 p.m. KCOP

Ellen DeGeneres Lily Tomlin. (N) 3 p.m. KNBC

Dr. Oz At-home COVID-19 tests; the case of Britney Spears. (N) 3 p.m. KTTV

The Real Chris Bosh. (N) 3 p.m. KCOP

The Dr. Oz Show Vanessa Williams. 5 p.m. KCOP

Washington Week Election results; President Trump's lawsuits in various states; Biden's transition team; Yamiche Alcindor; Peter Baker; Jake Sherman. (N) 7 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. KOCE

Real Time Tristan Harris; Malcolm Nance; Rosa Brooks. (N) 10 and 11:30 p.m. HBO

The Issue Is (N) 10:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. KTTV

The Tonight Show Milo Ventimiglia. (N) 11:34 p.m. KNBC

The Late Show Alex Wagner, John Heilemann and Mark McKinnon. (N) 11:35 p.m. KCBS

Jimmy Kimmel Charlie Hunnam. (N) 11:35 p.m. KABC

Amanpour (N) 12:15 a.m. KCET; 1 a.m. KLCB

Late Night Bette Midler. 12:36 a.m. KNBC

The Late Late Show Henry Golding; Ella Mai performs. (N) 12:37 a.m. KCBS

Nightline (N) 12:37 a.m. KABC

MOVIES

The Christmas Yule Blog A travel blogger is assigned to cover the 100th anniversary of a Christmas parade in a small New Mexico town, where she meets a charismatic high school music teacher. Sara Canning and Zak Santiago star in this new 2020 romance. 8 p.m. Lifetime



Lifetime

ZAK SANTIAGO in "The Christmas Yule Blog" on Lifetime.

Friday TV Highlights



Lifetime

ZAK SANTIAGO AND SARA CANNING in the TV movie “The Christmas Yule Blog” on Lifetime.

SERIES

Shark Tank In this new episode, the panel of potential investors considers a healthful alternative to salt. They’re also pitched a spring-loaded cake stand and an entertaining approach to carving knives used during holidays. 8 p.m. ABC

World’s Funniest Animals Host Elizabeth Stanton welcomes Danielle Nicolet (“The Flash”) as a special guest. Among the featured videos are a horse playing tetherball, fish in a feeding frenzy and a pig who keeps losing his grip. 9 p.m. CW

20/20 This new episode documents the 2009 disappearance of Utah wife and mother Susan Powell, including her secret will and a tragic event involving her two sons. 9 p.m. ABC

Great Performances Before becoming a late-night television host, James Corden enjoyed a theater triumph in London and New York with “One Man, Two Guvners,” an adaptation of a 1743 farce, presented here as a filmed stage production. Corden stars as a musician turned bodyguard who tries to earn extra cash by working for two rival mobsters. Jemima Rooper, Oliver Chris, Daniel Rigby and Martyn Ellis also star. 9 p.m. KOCE

Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives This new episode revisits a hoagie shop in Florida where a numbering system is confusing. 9 p.m. Food Network

My Big Italian Adventure Lorraine Bracco continues her renovation of the home in Sicily she purchased for 1 euro (and the building next door she purchased at the same time). 9 p.m. HGTV

Ghost Adventures This new episode visits the Jerome Grand Hotel in Jerome, Ariz., and an abandoned hospital in Yorktown, Texas. 9 p.m. Travel

Dateline NBC This new episode documents an elaborate sting operation used to thwart a murder-for-hire plot. 10 p.m. NBC

Warrior Ah Sahm, Young Jun and Chao (Andrew Koji, Jason Tobin, Hoon Lee) accompany Vega (Maria Elena Laas) to a U.S.-Mexico border town where a wealthy man (Conor Mullen) hosts a fight tournament. Mike Bisping also stars. 10 p.m. Cinemax

SPORTS

College Football Miami visits NC State, 4:30 p.m. ESPN; BYU visits Boise State, 6:45 p.m. FS1

TALK SHOWS

CBS This Morning (N) 7 a.m. KCBS

Today COVID-19; chef Nina Compton; Kenny Neal. (N) 7 a.m. KNBC

Good Morning America Kylie Minogue performs. (N) 7 a.m. KABC

Live With Kelly and Ryan Diane Lane (“Let Him Go”). (N) 9 a.m. KABC

Home & Family Lucia Micarelli; Robert Herjavec (“Shark Tank”). (N) 10 a.m. Hallmark

The Wendy Williams Show Jeremy Meeks; chef Saul Montiel. (N) 11 a.m. KTTV

The Talk Scott Bakula and Chelsea Field; Dr. Ian Smith. (N) 1 p.m. KCBS

Tamron Hall Matthew McConaughey (“Greenlights”); Omari Hardwick. (N) 1 p.m. KABC

The Drew Barrymore Show Winnie Harlow; Laura Sobiech and director Justin Baldoni. (N) 2 p.m. KCBS

The Kelly Clarkson Show Fortune Feimster; Sara Bareilles; Guy Fieri. (N) 2 p.m. KNBC

The Doctors A university creates the most aggressive testing model in the country; Finesse Mitchell. (N) 2 p.m. KCOP

Dr. Phil Groups dismantle the lives of those who say or do things that don’t align with the group’s view. (N) 3 p.m. KCBS

The Ellen DeGeneres Show Lily Tomlin (“Radium Girls”); Chelsea Handler. (N) 3 p.m. KNBC

The Dr. Oz Show At-home COVID-19 tests and how they work; foods to build up immunity; the case of Britney Spears. (N) 3 p.m. KTTV

The Real Chris Bosh (“I Want It All”); Riley (“Riley”). (N) 3 p.m. KCOP

The Dr. Oz Show Catherine and India Oxenberg talk about sex cult NXIVM; an immunity quiz; Vanessa Williams. 5 p.m. KCOP

Washington Week Election results; President Trump’s lawsuits in various states; Biden’s transition team; Yamiche Alcindor, PBS; Peter Baker, the New York Times; Jake Sherman, Politico. (N) 7 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. KOCE

Real Time With Bill Maher Tristan Harris (“The Social Dilemma”); Malcolm Nance, MSNBC; author Rosa Brooks (“Tangled Up in Blue: Policing the American City”). (N) 10 and 11:30 p.m. HBO

The Issue Is ... With Elex Michaelson (N) 10:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. KTTV

The Tonight Show: Jimmy Fallon Milo Ventimiglia; Marc Maron; Oneohtrix Point Never. (N) 11:34 p.m. KNBC

The Late Show With Stephen Colbert Alex Wagner, John Heilemann and Mark McKinnon; Charlamagne Tha God; Jena Friedman; Maz Jobrani. (N) 11:35 p.m. KCBS

Jimmy Kimmel Live! Charlie Hunnam; Why Don’t We perform. (N) 11:35 p.m. KABC

Amanpour and Company (N) 12:15 a.m. KCET; 1 a.m. KLCS

The Late Late Show With James Corden Henry Golding; Ella Mai performs. (N) 12:37 a.m. KCBS

Nightline (N) 12:37 a.m. KABC

MOVIES

Bond, James Bond BBC America is airing the James Bond movies that established Sean Connery as an international star. Up first is 1962’s “Dr. No,” 3:30 p.m.; followed by “From Russia With Love” (1963), 6; and “Goldfinger” (1964), 8:30.

The Christmas Yule Blog A travel blogger is assigned to cover the 100th anniversary of a Christmas parade in a small New Mexico town, where she meets a charismatic high school music teacher. Sara Canning and Zak Santiago star in this new 2020 romance. 8 p.m. Lifetime

Stuber Director Michael Dowse’s 2019 buddy cop action-comedy stars Kumail Nanjiani (“Silicon Valley”) and Dave Bautista (“Guardians of the Galaxy”) as a mild-mannered Uber driver and a hyper-intense Los Angeles Police detective, respectively. 8:25 p.m. Cinemax

Friday, November 6, Prime-time: Broadcast

	7:30 pm	8:00 pm	8:30 pm	9:00 pm	9:30 pm	10:00 pm	10:30 pm	11:00 pm	11:30 pm
CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)	The Greatest #AtHome Videos (TVPG) (N)		Magnum P.I. (TV14)		Blue Bloods (TV14)		News	Stephen Colbert
NBC	All Access (N)	American Ninja Warrior (TVPG) (Season finale) (N)			Dateline NBC A murder-for-hire plot. (N)		News		Jimmy Fallon
CW	2 & 1/2 Men (TVPG)	Masters of Illusion (TVPG)	Masters of Illusion (TVPG)	World's Funniest Animals (TVPG) Danielle Nicolet. (N)	World's Funniest Animals (TVPG) A diner-crashing deer.	News	Sports Final (N) (10:45)	News	Friends (TVPG) (11:35)
ABC	Wheel of Fortune (TVG) (N)	Shark Tank (TVPG) A healthy alternative to salt; a spring-loaded cake stand. (N)		20/20 The investigation into the 2009 disappearance of Utah wife and mother Susan Powell, including her secret will and a tragic twist involving her two sons; interviews with those close to the case. (N)			News	Jimmy Kimmel (TV14) Charlie Hunnam. (N) (11:35)	
KCAL	Family Feud	News		News		News	Sports Central	black-ish	black-ish
FOX	Extra (TVPG)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (TVPG) (N)			News	Issue Is (N)		Extra (TVPG)	TMZ (TVPG)
MyNet	Modern Family	Law & Order: CI (TV14)		Law & Order: CI (TV14)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King of Queens	King of Queens
KCET	California's Gold (TVG)	The Bridge on the River Kwai ★★★★★ (1957) William Holden. A British POW colonel orders his men to build their Japanese captor a railway bridge in the jungle. (PG)		The Big Bounce ★★ (2004) Owen Wilson, Morgan Freeman. A seductive woman asks for the help of a drifter who works for a judge to double-cross a shady developer. (PG-13)			Noticias (10:59)		Sabor de mañana (N)
UNIVISION	La Rosa de Guadalupe	La Rosa de Guadalupe (TV14) (N)		Imperio de mentiras (TV14) (N)		Dulce ambición (TV14) (N)		Noticias (10:59)	Sabor de mañana (N)
KOCE	Washington Week Special Report	Lucy Worsley's Royal Myths & Secrets (TV14) Queen Anne: Mother of Great Britain.		Great Performances (TV14) James Corden portrays an out of work musician employed by two men in playwright Richard Bean's "One Man, Two Guv-nors." (N)			Finding Your Roots (TVPG)		Seinfeld
KDOC	News (N)	Dateline		Dateline		Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
KLCS	Antiques Roadshow (TVG) Indianapolis Hour 1. (7)	Bluegrass Underground (TVG) Josh Ritter.	Sun Studio Sessions (TVG) The Bo-Keys.	ACL Presents: 50 Years of Asleep at the Wheel: A Retrospective (TVPG)		Front and Center (TVPG) Hozier.		World News	News

Friday, November 6, Prime-time: Premium Cable Channels

	7:30 pm	8:00 pm	8:30 pm	9:00 pm	9:30 pm	10:00 pm	10:30 pm	11:00 pm	11:30 pm
Cinemax	Big Momma's House 2 ★ (2006) Martin Lawrence, Nia Long. An FBI agent reprises his disguise and takes a job as a nanny in a suspect's house. (PG-13) (6:45)		Stuber ★★ (2019) Dave Bautista, Kumail Nanjiani. After crashing his car, a cop who's recovering from eye surgery recruits an Uber driver to help him catch a heroin dealer. (R) (8:25)			Warrior (TVMA) Ah Sahm, Young Jun and Hong head to a border town owned by the host of a lucrative fight tournament. (N)		Warrior (TVMA) (10:55)	Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter ★ (2012) Benjamin Walker. (R) (11:40)
Encore	Think Like a Man ★★ (2012) Michael Ealy. When the women in their lives buy a book by Steve Harvey and take its advice to heart, four men conspire to use the book's insider information to turn the tables on the ladies and teach them a lesson. (6:55)			The Amazing Spider-Man ★★ (2012) Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone. Peter Parker's quest to solve his parents' disappearance puts him on a collision course with a scientist's deadly alter ego, the Lizard. (PG-13)				Along Came Polly ★★ (2004) Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston. (11:20)	
EPIX	Instant Family ★★ (2018) Mark Wahlberg. (6)	Like a Boss ★ (2020) Tiffany Haddish, Rose Byrne. (R)			Playing With Fire ★ (2019) John Cena, Judy Greer. (PG) (9:25)		Sleepless in Seattle ★★ (1993) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan. (PG) (11:05)		
HBO	The Undoing (TVMA) After finding safety at her father's house, Grace finds herself on the receiving end of detectives' personal questions.		A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas ★★ (2011) John Cho, Kal Penn. Six years after their last adventure, the infamous stoners reunite on Christmas Eve to find a replacement tree for the one Harold sent up in smoke. (R) (8:25)			Real Time With Bill Maher (TVMA) (N)		How to With John Wilson (TVMA) How to Improve Your Memory. (N)	Real Time With Bill Maher (TVMA)
Showtime	The Manchurian Candidate ★★ (2004) Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep. A troubled Gulf War veteran becomes suspicious after a powerful senator's son becomes a candidate for vice president. (R) (6:45)			Brahms: The Boy II ★ (2020) Katie Holmes, Owain Yeoman. Terror strikes when a boy discovers a doll that appears to be eerily human. (PG-13)			Courage Under Fire ★★ (1996) Denzel Washington, Meg Ryan. A troubled officer reviews the Medal of Honor candidacy of a female helicopter pilot killed during the Gulf War. (R)		
Starz	Big Hero 6 ★★ (2014) Voices of Ryan Potter, Scott Adsit. (6:15)	Frozen ★★ (2013) Voices of Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel. Animated. A fearless young princess sets out with a mountaineer to find her sister, whose icy powers have trapped their kingdom in eternal winter. (PG)			Jumanji: The Next Level ★★ (2019) Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart. When Spencer goes back into the fantastical world of Jumanji, pals Martha, Fridge and Bethany re-enter the game to bring him home. But everything about Jumanji is about to change, as they soon discover more obstacles and more danger to overcome. (PG-13) (9:46)				
TMC	Chloe ★★ (2009) Julianne Moore, Liam Neeson. (R) (6:15)	Julie & Julia ★★ (2009) Meryl Streep, Amy Adams. A woman in Queens, N.Y., sets a deadline of one year to prepare all 524 recipes in Julia Child's famous cookbook, Mastering the Art of French Cooking. (PG-13)			Sunshine Cleaning ★★ (2008) Amy Adams, Emily Blunt. Hoping to create a better life for herself and her son, a cleaning woman starts a crime-scene-cleanup business with her unreliable sister. (R) (10:05)			Sword of Trust (2019) Marc Maron, Jon Bass. (R) (11:40)	

Friday, November 6, Prime-time: Cable News Channels

	7:30 pm	8:00 pm	8:30 pm	9:00 pm	9:30 pm	10:00 pm	10:30 pm	11:00 pm	11:30 pm
Bloomberg	Bloomberg Best (7)	Technology (TVG)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Best of Bloomberg Daybreak: Middle East (N)		Real Yield (N)	Commodities (TVG)
CNBC	Greed (N) (7)	American Greed (TVPG)		The News With Shepard Smith		American Greed (TVPG)		Dateline (TVPG)	
CNN	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight (N)		Anderson Cooper (TVPG)		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
CSPAN	The Communicators	Politics and Public Policy Today		Politics and Public Policy Today without interruption.		The day's major public affairs and political events presented			
CSPAN2	Claudio Saunt	Steve Olson		Eddie Cole		Lisa Napoli, Up All Night		Martha Jones, Vanguard	
Fox B	Wall Street	WSJ at Large		Lou Dobbs		The Evening Edit		Artificial Intelligence	
Fox News	Ingraham (7)	News		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		Ingraham	
MSNBC	The Last Word	The 11th Hour (N)		The Rachel Maddow Show		The Last Word		The 11th Hour	
SN-1	News	News	News	News		News		News	

Friday, November 6, Prime-time: Cable

	7:30 pm	8:00 pm	8:30 pm	9:00 pm	9:30 pm	10:00 pm	10:30 pm	11:00 pm	11:30 pm	
A&E	The First 48	The First 48 (TV14) (N)		Live Rescue (TV14) (N)						
AMC	The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King ★★ (2003) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen. (PG-13) (6:30)							Fear the Walking Dead (TVMA)		
Animal P	River Monsters (7)	River Monsters (TVPG) Bone Crusher.		River Monsters: Deadliest Man-Eaters (TVPG) Tropical Trouble-Makers. (N)				River Monsters (TVPG) River of Blood.		
BBC A	From Russia With Love ★★ (1963) Sean Connery. (6)		Goldfinger ★★ (1964) Sean Connery. Agent 007 drives an Aston Martin, runs into Oddjob and fights Goldfinger's scheme to rob Fort Knox. (PG)				The Graham Norton Show (TV14) (N)			
BET	The Help ★★ (2011) Viola Davis, Emma Stone. (PG-13) (5)			Tyler Perry's Sistas (TV14)		Tyler Perry's House of Payne		Tyler Perry's Assisted Living		
Bravo	13 Going on 30 ★★ (2004) Jennifer Garner, Mark Ruffalo. (PG-13)				13 Going on 30 ★★ (2004) Jennifer Garner, Mark Ruffalo. (PG-13)			How to Be Single		
CMT	Last Standing	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	
Comedy	The Office	Schitt's Creek	Schitt's Creek	Schitt's Creek	Schitt's Creek	Schitt's Creek	Kevin Hart: Laugh at My Pain	Chappelle		
Discovery	Gold Rush: Pay Dirt (7)	Gold Rush (TV14) Parker's new strategy to build a war chest creates an engineering challenge, igniting a flare-up with his foremen; Rick pulls in his first gold of the season. (N)							Gold Rush (TV14) (N) (11:14)	
Disney	Raven's Home (TVG)	Raven's Home (TVG)	Just Roll With It (TVY7)	Raven About BUNK'D	Liv and Maddie (9:45)	Liv and Maddie (10:10)	Raven's Home (10:35)	Raven's Home (TVG)	Zombies: Moonstone	
E!	The Proposal ★★ (2009) Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds. (PG-13) (7)				The Proposal ★★ (2009) Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds. (PG-13)					
Food	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (TVG)	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (TVG)	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (TVG)	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (TVG) (N)	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (TVG)	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (TVG)	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (TVG)	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (TVG)	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives (TVG)	
Freeform	The Santa Clause 2 ★★ (2002) Tim Allen, Elizabeth Mitchell. (G) (6:30)			The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause ★ (2006) Tim Allen, Martin Short. (G)			The 700 Club (N)			
FX	Fast & Furious 6 (5)	BlackKkLansman ★★ (2018) John David Washington, Adam Driver. (R)			BlackKkLansman ★★ (2018) John David Washington.					
FXX	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	
Hallmark	A Royal Christmas (6)	A Shoe Addict's Christmas (2018) Candace Cameron Bure, Luke MacFarlane.			Christmas Under Wraps (2014) David O'Donnell.			Candace Cameron Bure, (N)		
HGTV	My Lottery Dream Home (TVG)	House Hunters International (TVG)	House Hunters International (TVG)	My Big Italian Adventure Lorraine has a setback in her cellar. (N)	House Hunters (TVG)	House Hunters International (TVG)	House Hunters (TVG)	House Hunters International (TVG)	House Hunters International (TVG)	
History	Oak Island (7)	The Curse of Oak Island (TVPG)		The Curse of Oak Island (TVPG)		The Curse of Oak Island (TVPG) (10:05)		The Curse of Oak Island (TVPG) (11:05)		
IFC	The Dark Knight Rises ★★ (2012) Christian Bale, Anne Hathaway. (6)	Rises ★★ (2012) Christian Bale, Anne Hathaway. (6)				Inglourious Basterds ★★ (2009) Brad Pitt. (R)				
Lifetime	The Christmas Aunt (2020) (6)	The Christmas Yule Blog (2020) Sara Canning, Zak Santiago.				A Crafty Christmas Romance (2020) Nicola Posener, Brad Johnson.				
MTV	Ridiculousness (TV14)	Ridiculousness (TV14)	Ridiculousness (TV14)	Ridiculousness (TV14)	Ridiculousness (TV14)	Ridiculousness (TV14)	Ridiculousness (TV14)	Ridiculousness (TV14)	Ridiculousness (TV14)	
Nat Geo	Ultimate Survival Alaska	Ultimate Survival Alaska In leg ten, teams are dropped on a remote beach and can travel by land or by sea; facing dehydration, a giant pod of whales, sickness and violent rapids.							Ultimate Survival Alaska (TVPG)	
Nickelodeon	Danger Force	Danger Force	Danger Force	Unfiltered	Group Chat		Friends	Friends	Friends	
OWN	Ready to Love (TV14) (7)	Ready to Love (TV14) Houston singles focus on finding love at a resort.		Ready to Love (TV14) Watch What You Say. (N)			Put A Ring On It (TV14) Letting Go. (N)		Put A Ring On It (TV14) It's the men's turn to go on dates.	
Paramount	Grown Ups 2 ★ (2013) Adam Sandler, Kevin James. (PG-13) (7)				Grown Ups 2 ★ (2013) Adam Sandler, Kevin James. (PG-13)					
Sundance	L&O (7)	Law & Order (TV14)		Law & Order (TV14)		Law & Order (TV14)		Law & Order (TV14)		
Syfy	The Fifth Element (6)		Death Wish ★ (2018) Bruce Willis, Vincent D'Onofrio. (R)					Futurama	Futurama	
TBS	Fist Fight ★★ (2017) Charlie Day, Ice Cube. (R)				Pain & Gain ★★ (2013) Mark Wahlberg, Dwayne Johnson. (R) (9:15)					
TCM	The Greatest Show on Earth ★★ (1928) Charlie Chaplin, Merna Kennedy. (G) (7:45)				The Big Circus ★★ (1959) Victor Mature, Red Buttons. (9:15)				Slumber Party Massacre	
TLC	The Family Chantel (7)	90 Day Fiancé: The Other Way (TV14) Yazan begs for his brother's help; Sumit finally goes to court. (N)				90 Day Fiancé: The Other Way (TVPG)		90 Day Fiancé: The Other Way (TVPG)		
TNT	Bones (TV14) (7)	Transformers ★★ (2007) Shia LaBeouf, Tyrese Gibson. Humanity's fate rests in the hands of a youth when warring robots make Earth their final battleground. (PG-13)						All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (TV14) (N)		
Toon	Teen Titans Go! (7)	Gumball Animated.	Gumball (TVY7) (8:45)	Bob's Burgers (TVPG)	American Dad (TV14)	American Dad (TV14)	Rick and Morty (TV14)	Family Guy Animated.	Family Guy Animated.	
Travel	Ghost Adventures (7)	Ghost Adventures (TVPG)		Ghost Adventures (TVPG) (N)				Ghost Adventures (TVPG)		
TruTV	Jokers (TV14)	Jokers (TV14)	Jokers (TV14)	Jokers (TV14)	Jokers (TV14)	Secret Videos	Jokers (TV14)	Jokers (TV14)	Jokers (TV14)	
TV Land	Andy Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King of Queens	King of Queens	
USA	Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015) (PG-13) (6)			Ant-Man ★★ (2015) Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas. (PG-13)						
VH1	Martin (TVPG)	Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit ★★ (1993) Whoopi Goldberg, Kathy Najimy. (PG)					Sister Act ★★ (1992) Whoopi Goldberg, Maggie Smith. (PG)			
WGN A	NewsNation	NewsNation		NewsNation		NewsNation		DailyMailTV	DailyMailTV	



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